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THE

SATURDAY REVIEW

POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 2,371, Vol. 91.

6 April, 1901.

6d.

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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Russia for the present has been thwarted over the Manchurian Agreement. The combined remonstrances of the Powers and the Central and Southern Viceroy, addressed to the Court, have prevailed over the reactionary parties in league with Russia and Li Hung-chang who makes no disguise of his policy of compliance with Russia on the ground that no effective aid can be expected by China in resisting Russia's deliberate encroachments in Manchuria. For the moment however he has been overruled. In reply to the demand for the signature of the Agreement the Emperor has refused it as incompatible with Chinese sovereignty. The refusal is based on the reasons advanced by the Viceroy that if Chinese sovereignty is lost in Manchuria, the other Powers will be stimulated to take action similar to that of Russia. Until Russia consents to place before the Powers the actual terms of the agreement this view of its effect is entitled to weigh against all her protestations to the contrary. This Russia refuses to do and if the Agreement is not signed, the advantages her occupation gives her to carry out the plans she has no intention of relinquishing are only less than if she were in Manchuria on the terms of a treaty with China. In either case her ultimate success or failure will depend on the opposition the Powers are prepared to offer.

In an interview reported by the "Times" correspondent at Peking with Li Hung-chang the latter accepts the fact of the Agreement constituting an encroachment on Chinese sovereignty. It is impossible not to admit that he puts a strong case for China's submission to Russia. Japan, England and America are the only Powers he says who have ever professed an interest in the Manchurian question. But to what extent would their interests go? If China could obtain a written assurance from them that they would demand the restoration of Manchuria within a given term of years, then China would not sign. Otherwise what good can it do to China to irritate Russia and lose Manchuria

altogether on the mere chance—a very doubtful chance—of support from other quarters? That is a very pertinent question and probably the anxiety of the Powers that the Agreement should not be signed is caused by the reflection that if it were, a prompt answer would have to be given which they are by no means ready to make. It cannot be merely that they are relieved to have China on their side. The danger from the Russian occupation of Manchuria is hardly lessened but they are not forced to a decision to propose terms to Russia for evacuation, so long as the Agreement is not signed. Even then Russia from her pressure on China evidently does not think the risk very great. She would arrange matters with Japan who seems the only Power that would need to be considered.

It would be absurd to affect knowledge as to the real import of the disturbances that still continue in Russia. But we do not gather from the further accounts that have been sent from Vienna, where the scanty information that actually comes from Russia seems to be focussed, any additional reason to suppose that we minimised the danger last week by assuming the disturbance to be of no vital significance in Russian politics. What proportions any intellectual movement may eventually assume, and the present movement seems of decided importance, can never be foretold. It is easier to believe however that Viennese opinion is right in supposing it is not of such importance as to affect to any perceptible extent the execution of Russia's plans abroad than that it is capable of holding its own against the overwhelming force opposed to it. All accounts agree that it has been dealt with so far by extremely severe measures. Some concession has been made to public opinion by the annulling of the sentence on Karpovich who assassinated the Minister of Education. The first trial was held with closed doors and the Tsar has ordered a new trial to be held in public.

Count von Bülow and the Italian Premier Signor Zanardelli have met and had a conversation at Verona. The report that they would meet when the Count took his Easter holiday in Italy, and the fact that he also had met the German ambassador to Vienna on his journey, were sufficient to add piquancy to the discussions that have been going on as to the intentions of Italy in regard to the Triple Alliance. There are misgivings in Germany as to the warmth of Italy's adherence to the alliance which has been considerably

cooled by the indifference with which her commercial interests have been treated by the parties in Germany who have imposed a protectionist policy on the Government. The commercial treaties are nearly out and Italy is manifesting some impatience with the burden the military alliance throws on her without her gaining compensatory commercial advantages. Signor Zanardelli has dropped hints that Italy considers the friendship of France as of equal importance with that of any other Power. These are signs that if Italy does not intend to drop out of the Triple, she is preparing the ground for a revision of her engagements. Even if she is under no obligation to put two army corps at the disposal of Germany as has been stated, and denied, her obligations are sufficiently onerous and the rise of the German colonial power since the alliance was made adds to the chances that she may at any time be called on to fulfil them.

The official news from the seat of war has been mixed with the usual amount of anticipatory rumour. In the last resort the cause of almost all the misleading and ridiculous telegrams may be traced to a curious belief on the part of correspondents in the words of Boer prisoners, whose chief solace in captivity is the practice of the gentle art of deceiving their captors. It was said that De Wet and Botha had met at Vrede and that 13,000 troops had been collected to check General French. There is probably no truth in either telegram. Elaborate precautions are now being taken to prevent the coalition of the two Boer Generals and there is no large body of Boer troops collected anywhere. Many little engagements have been fought. General Plumer has begun the movement towards the subjugation of the Northern Transvaal by the capture of Nylstroom, eighty miles north of Pretoria. General French, as usual and on the usual scale, has captured stock and ammunition as well as prisoners and three guns. At Boschberg Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry by a night march captured a laager and sixty prisoners. Except for some attempts to wreck trains the enemy have been nowhere aggressive, neither have they disclosed their intentions.

The first Federal Parliament of Australia would appear in some measure to be a self-stultifying body. Mr. Barton's supporters are in a majority in the House of Representatives and a minority in the Senate. Mr. Barton went to the country on a moderate Protectionist programme. Free Trade was obviously impossible. Mr. G. H. Reid, a Cobdenite of Cobdenites, is at the head of an opposition composed of so-called Revenue Tariffists. The contest at the polls resolved itself into a rhetorical duel between the economic principles favoured respectively by the two chief colonies—New South Wales and Victoria. New South Wales was undoubtedly out of sympathy with the rest of Australia and the fact that in the Senate Mr. Reid is stronger than Mr. Barton can only mean that it is an unpopular body from the start. That the Chamber to which, in ordinary circumstances, we should look for the greater wisdom in economic matters should favour doctrines the adoption of which would involve widespread misery is unfortunate. To what extent Ministerial preponderance in the House of Representatives will secure a working majority it is impossible to say. Mr. Barton has need of stable support at the moment when he is setting the federal machinery in motion and it is to be regretted that he has apparently burned the boats of compromise by placing the tariff scheme in the hands of Mr. Kingston who may be described as a sort of Antipodean McKinley.

The fragmentary returns of the Indian Census which have so far appeared are significant of the calamities to which the country generally has shown such extraordinary power of resistance. The decade has been marked by two unparalleled famines, widespread plague and more than one visitation of cholera. Over British India as a whole the population has remained stationary—the small increase being credited to more complete enumeration. Local decreases have yet to be distributed between mortality emigration and a diminished birth

rate. But the losses follow the track of famine and disease. The Central Provinces which bore the brunt of both famines have lost 8·6 per cent. of their inhabitants. Many Native States have suffered much more severely, Udhaipur with a loss of 45 per cent. being the worst. Bengal on the other hand has risen by 3½ millions and the N.W.P. by 1·68 per cent. The city of Bombay is 51,000 below its last census while Calcutta is 162,000 above it—results due to the plague. The Chenab canal in the Panjab has brought into existence a colony of 800,000 souls and irrigated districts generally display a marked superiority over the unprotected areas. So far there is nothing to connect famine mortality with the land revenue assessments. The greatest diminution in the N.W.P. is in Ghazipur, a permanently settled district. The comparison between British territory and Native States is perhaps the most striking feature of the available returns.

We referred some few weeks ago to the strange volte-face which has come about in the policy of Venezuela towards the United States as indicated by the contemptuous manner in which President Castro was treating the remonstrances of President McKinley with regard to the Asphalt Trust. We now learn that Mr. Loomis, the American Minister at Caracas, has returned home and there is grave fear of a total rupture of diplomatic relations. Not even well-informed American opinion seems quite clear as to the actual merits of the dispute, but one thing is clear that Venezuela resents the self-assumed American position as guardian of the whole continent and dictator of its destinies. Until the issue of Mr. Kruger's ultimatum, recent years had never seen so wanton a provocation to war as the issue of Mr. Cleveland's insolent Message regarding a private dispute between Venezuela and ourselves. We have little sympathy with the Venezuelan Government as such but we have the deepest with any attempt to arrest the wholesale application of the Monroe doctrine that is practised by the United States. It menaces the legitimate development of European countries and, we have reason to know, excites the gravest apprehension for the future in the governing circles of Germany. In any case the irony of political nemesis has rarely been more delightfully apparent than in the present condition of affairs and we await its development with no less amusement than interest.

The Easter recess of Parliament is to last until the 18th of April; not too long a time for members to recruit after the high pressure at which they have had to take the heaviest and most important portion of their duties, and the nervous strain of some of the exciting scenes that have taken place in the House of Commons. South Africa, the Army and Navy, together with Chinese affairs have formed the principal subjects which they have had before them and there has been little time for any other kind of business. It has been the first session of the new reign and this has itself raised many questions which had to be dealt with in addition to ordinary topics. The Accession Oath was one of these: one of the few subjects on which sympathy can be given to the Irish members; for their general prominence during the session has been of little credit either to themselves or to the House of Commons. But we would rather be with them on this matter than with the class of member of whom Mr. Banbury is a fair type who blocked the Catholic Disabilities Bill. After the recess we may reasonably expect that some of the neglected legislative business may have a better chance than it has had so far.

An exception to the otherwise barren legislative record is the Demise of the Crown Bill which is intended to render unnecessary the making out of new commissions to all servants of the Crown in the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and the Protectorates which would become vacant six months after the death of Queen Victoria. This will be an enormous convenience and saving of energy as well as expense, by preventing the manufacture of an infinity of merely formal official documents. It will put the great body of officialdom on exactly the same footing as Parliament

which now continues notwithstanding the demise of the Crown instead of being necessarily dissolved after six months. Both the King himself and the Ministers will be saved a burden of barren labour, which might be tolerated in the easygoing days of Queen Anne but not so well now; and the Crown loses none of its powers of new appointment or of dismissal. A cognate question was raised by Mr. Labouchere discovering that ministers with seats in the House of Commons who have been reappointed to their offices ought also to have been re-elected though they held office at the time when they were returned for their constituencies. If the perfectly useless formality of a fresh election had to be gone through it would be quite time to introduce a companion Bill to the Demise of the Crown Bill. But of course when Mr. Labouchere "spied strangers" he was joking.

As to the result of the Monmouth election petition, the surprise is not that Dr. Harris should have been unseated, but that he should ever have been elected. It is true Monmouth does not come so badly out of the inquiry as did Maidstone and corruption on a large scale was not proved. All the personal charges against Dr. Harris himself failed except in respect of his statements about Mr. Spicer's paper-making. But what his agents and he did together has been sufficient to bring about the loss of his seat. This we cannot profess to regret from a public point of view and that of the Unionist party. It does not add to the effectiveness of a party's action or to the credit of its public character to have amongst its members one connected with the Raid in the manner of Dr. Harris. Mr. Longstaff was a remarkable kind of election agent, and certificates exempting from prosecution seem to have been granted very easily at Monmouth as at Maidstone. Probably the tenderness to Mr. Longstaff and to Icke (for he can hardly be hit if Mr. Longstaff is not struck at) is due to the fact that there is a legal difficulty about the precise character of their offence.

There are several remarkable features about the Revenue Returns for the United Kingdom for the year ending 31 March, 1901. First of all this revenue account is the largest that has ever been presented. The estimate made a year ago on 6 April was that the total would be £127,520,000. This sum has been exceeded by £12,488,620; the whole revenue being £140,018,624. Last year ending 31 March the total revenue amounted to £129,756,730 so that the amount of this year's revenue over last is over ten millions and a quarter. But this excess of £12,488,620 raised beyond the estimate of last April has to be reduced by a sum of over £9,600,000 which is paid out of certain receipts to the local taxation account: so that the real excess gain of the Imperial Exchequer over the estimate raised by the year's taxation is only about £2,800,000. Under almost all the great heads of revenue there are large excesses over the estimates. The Customs are nearly three millions above it: the Excise nearly five millions: Property and Income Tax over a million. Stamps are below the estimate by about £625,000: while the Postal and Telegraph Services are practically the same as last year.

The Local Government Board Poor-law Inspectors for the eastern districts have just issued a return of very remarkable interest to all who are concerned with Poor-law administration. It gives the statistics of vagrancy in Norfolk and Suffolk for the four years 1897-1900; and shows beyond doubt that the tramp is disappearing from our roads at a rate beyond what any social reformer has dared to hope. The figures speak for themselves. In Norfolk the number of admissions to casual wards were 29,037 in 1897. In 1898 they were 24,128; in 1899, 15,095; and last year they fell to 9,739. In Suffolk the corresponding figures for the four years were 23,903, 22,385, 17,655, and 12,838. The decrease is not local. It is spread evenly over every one of the 22 Norfolk unions, and only one of the 17 Suffolk unions is in exception to the general rule. The remarkable fact, therefore, is that in East Anglia, the most casual-ridden of our provincial districts, the cases of vagrancy have decreased from 52,940 to 22,577

within four years. The figures are as pleasing as they are remarkable. If the amount of decrease is maintained, and tramps continue to disappear at the rate of over 8,000 a year, we may shut up our casual wards three years hence. If, as is probable, a stubborn residuum of vagrancy should prevent that happy consummation, its reduction to such a residuum would still be one of the most noteworthy facts for English social scientists.

Inasmuch as it means that a considerable amount of housing accommodation will be added to what is at present available in the London district, the Tottenham housing scheme, which the London County Council sanctioned on Tuesday, is, we agree with Mr. Burns, a contribution to the housing problem, but we also agree with Mr. Steadman that it will do nothing or next to nothing for the East-End working people. They don't want to live in Tottenham, most of them must live in East London, so that merely to know that there is room and to spare in the suburbs will not be a great consolation to them. More important and more desirable than the indefinite extension of London outwards is the replacement of small houses in the town proper by larger ones. But to do this in such a way as to be effectual, it must be done on a plan, an intelligent design to meet present and future needs arrived at by the best calculations possible. Such a design can be obtained and executed only by the strongest and most centralised authority, the Imperial Government. It is regrettable that Mr. Ritchie, who unlike most politicians has some idea what the London housing question means, should in his answer to Sir Howard Vincent have condescended to the quibble of saying that the local authority has full power under the existing law to deal with the question of overcrowding in London. It was one of those statements which are the less honest for being literally accurate.

In the Court of Appeal on Monday the decision of the Divisional Court in the School Board case of the King v. Cockerton was heard and the judgment of the Court below was affirmed. The London School Board has been badly beaten all along the line. The first Court was unanimous against its possessing powers to give science and art instruction under the name of elementary education at the expense of the rates and to adults in evening schools: in short to give secondary education under the Elementary Education Acts. This view the Court of Appeal was also unanimous in supporting, so that five judges have without hinting a doubt decided against the School Board. If the Board is not utterly regardless of incurring expenses which must be paid out of the rates they will accept these decisions as final. There is no excuse for refusing to be bound by such a numerous and weighty body of judicial opinion. If the judges had been divided amongst themselves the House of Lords might justifiably have been called on to turn the balance. All the arguments have been exhausted, there is no new matter to be placed before another Court, and the judges of the Appeal Court were as decided in pointing out that it is hopeless for the Board to rely on the present Education Acts, as was the Divisional Court. New legislation is required but it is not likely to be in the direction of increasing the powers of the School Boards.

The Board of Visitors of Coopers Hill have heard the members of the teaching staff whom on the Visitors' advice the Secretary of State has thought fit to send away, and have published a report confirming their previous decision in every case except one. This was a foregone conclusion. It requires a bigger man than the Visitors of Coopers Hill to have the courage to give himself away. The granting of the hearing was right on the Secretary of State's part; it was even more astute than right. He is now able to take the line that he is "cleared;" that his judgment is confirmed on appeal by re-hearing of the case. The unfortunate professors and others were not equally astute in acquiescing in an appeal to a court against itself. Were the members of courts of first instance and of the Court of Appeal identical, the harmony

between their findings would be wonderful. This will not do. Lord George Hamilton by choosing to invite a deputation and give reasons for his action has appealed to Cæsar, and to Cæsar he must go. The House of Commons may be trusted to raise this question yet.

We fancy that a non-professional person reading the last Annual Statement of the General Council of the Bar would not be quite convinced that the interests of the client are always paramount to the interests of the profession, when the Council settles some of its questions of practice and etiquette. A Junior takes silk, and he can no longer do many matters which his thorough acquaintance with a pending case would enable him to do best. The Bar Council says let the new man consult with the old. Yes; but that means extra fees; and this is not always so indifferent to the client as to the Bar Council. Then the Leader may change his Court in the Chancery Division, and if his services are required in his old Court he can refuse to go without a special fee. In a police-court case a barrister must not accept a defence without the intervention of a solicitor; that is an extra expense; and besides we should have thought barristers would be glad of any opportunity of freeing themselves of their servitude to solicitors. They certainly ought to extend their liberty instead of restraining it. There is a decision allowing "devilling" in vacation. That is in the interests of men with business. Might not the Bar Council check the too easy transfer of cases to a "devil" by giving him a right to a certain portion of the fees? It would often be in the interests of the client, and the man who does the work might reasonably be paid more than his cab fare. Then they might have done something for him by taking up the defence of poor prisoners.

Mr. George A. B. Dewar's idea of colonising the Parks with butterflies (first adumbrated in an article by him in "Longman's Magazine" for January of this year) is, we are glad to know, being energetically followed up by the London County Council. But why stop at butterflies? Dragonflies would be yet more effective in a decorative sense; for they are far more brilliant in their colouring and more magnificent in their flight. Their settlement would be quite easy in the Parks where there is water. Nothing would be required but to put into the Serpentine or the lake in S. James's Park some thousands of young larvæ of some of the showiest of the commoner species, *Anax Imperator*, for instance. To reassure the intelligent folk who have written to the newspapers on the butterfly idea, we may say that nurses and their charges would be in no danger of being devoured or even stung by these flying dragons. To the correspondent who was fearful of the butterflies' emigration from the Parks, we may point out that there will be no need to clip the dragonflies' wings, since it is their habit to remain in the neighbourhood of the scenes of their earlier life.

The American and West African markets continue to absorb the activity of the Stock Exchange. Notwithstanding the departure of Mr. Pierpont Morgan for Europe and the approaching Easter holidays, American Rails have been booming, Northern Pacific Commons touching 101, Louisvilles reaching 107, and Erie Commons rising to over 39. The stocks of the Reading Company are strongly "tipped," but hang fire, though no doubt they will have their turn. Operators are shy of selling Yankees for the holidays, as old parliamentary hands are recalling the story of how "little Eries" in the last boom closed at 37 on the Thursday before Good Friday and opened at 50 the following Tuesday. In the Jungle market Wassaus have touched 8, and then receded slightly, Sekondi and Tarkwas passed 5 and then fell back to 4½, Gold Coast Agency are quoted 57 to 59, and Gold Coast Amalgamated at 17. London Ashantis have risen from 3 to over 8, and shares like Bokitsi and Offim River are talked much higher. Quite inexplicably South Africans braced up on Thursday on Continental buying, but West Australian mines are quite lifeless, except Lake Views, which have risen to 8½. Home rails are stagnant and Consols closed at 95½.

WAR AND FINANCE.

WHEN Mr. Kruger said, or was reported to say, that if the British wanted to take his country he would make them pay £100,000,000 for it, we laughed pleasantly. But it was the laughter of fools, and is already crackling like thorns under the pot of the ex-President at the Hague. The facts are that we have already spent on the South African war £146,000,000, and as it is admitted that our expenditure is at the rate of £6,000,000 a month and we shall have to pay large sums for compensation and assistance to ruined farmers, that the total probable cost will not be far short of £200,000,000. This would be five times what the Crimean war cost us, and nearly a third of the debt incurred in the great struggle with Napoleon. It is too late now to ask whether South Africa is, commercially or morally, worth this gigantic outlay. Time alone can show whether or not we have again put our money on the wrong horse. Some people think that the Yangtze Valley would have been a better investment: but "dis aliter visum." The history of nations is made by individuals; and three powerful individuals, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Chamberlain, and Sir Alfred Milner, seem to have decided that the future of Great Britain lies in Africa, not in Asia. So let us hold our peace, and pay the bill. Ay, there's the rub! For we find ourselves confronted with a deficit, in round numbers, of £55,000,000, and an annual expenditure which has risen from £89,304,316, ten years ago, in 1889-90, to £130,384,684 in the year 1900-1. The fortnight's interval, which the House of Commons has allowed itself for the Easter holidays, will give men time to think over these figures. The recess may be compared to what the French call "le quart d'heure de Rabelais," the time between coffee and the presentation of "l'addition," when calculation so often spoils digestion.

Many serious persons, we know, regard the enormous amount paid into the Exchequer during the financial year just ended as a sign of the prosperity of the country. That amount is £140,018,624, for the fact that £9,633,940 is paid from the Exchequer to the Local Taxation Account makes no difference. That is merely a matter of account between the Imperial and local authorities: the total was raised and paid out of the taxes. It is admitted on all sides that this amount is more likely to be increased than reduced in the near future. We are not of those who are simply lost in admiration of a country's wealth which can pay £140,000,000 a year. Taxes are not revenue, as has been observed. The sources of revenue are the prosperity, the health, and the enjoyment of the people, on the one hand, and efficiency and economy of administration on the other. The art of government lies in the nice adjustment of expenditure to taxable capacity. When the demands of the Exchequer exceed the taxable capacity of the country, dangerous results, political and economic, are apt to follow. Has the Chancellor of the Exchequer made anything like a detailed calculation of the proportion of his income which a member of the upper or middle class now pays to the public services, imperial and local? For it is essential, if justice is to be done, that local taxation should be taken into the account: the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not control it: but the taxpayer pays it. To begin with local taxes, or rates as they are popularly called. In London, which is not so highly rated as many provincial towns, Wolverhampton for instance, the rates together with the inhabited household amount to a third of the rent. A man's rent is generally calculated at a tenth of his income: in London, we fear, it is more often a fifth. But taking the conservative estimate of 10 per cent., local taxes amount to over 3½ per cent. (a third of a tenth) of a man's income. His income-tax stands at 1s. in the pound or 5 per cent. of his income. Therefore in direct taxation alone everyone whose income exceeds £700 is now paying over 8½ per cent. to the public service. What he pays in indirect taxation it is impossible, within the limits of an article such as this, accurately to determine: it can hardly be less than 2½ per cent. We assert without fear of refutation, that, putting aside abatements under £700, an income-tax payer now contributes at least 10 per cent. of his income to the

public service; and that should give Sir Michael Hicks-Beach pause. It is breaking-point, and if he goes beyond that, he will be met by evasion, and, what he probably cares more about, by political opposition.

There is a deficit of between £54,000,000 and £55,000,000 to be provided for when Parliament meets on 18 April. Will the Chancellor of the Exchequer simply issue Consols to that amount; or will he divide the amount between current taxation and funded debt? It is a very old question which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach is called upon to answer; a question which business firms and joint-stock companies have to answer every year of their lives: namely, what is capital and what is revenue expenditure? In commerce it is usually the chartered accountant, who audits the books, that decides what amounts should be charged to capital and what to revenue. In the national balance sheet it depends upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, acting under the influence of his colleagues in the Cabinet and public opinion as expressed in the newspaper. It is unthinkable that in the present instance the Chancellor of the Exchequer should charge the whole deficit of £54,000,000 to revenue. If ever there was a case of money sunk for the benefit of posterity, it is this. The value of South Africa as an asset is not likely to be ascertained during the life of those who have turned "le cap de quarantaine." We should prefer to see the whole of the £54,000,000 funded; but we think it more probable that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach will add some £40,000,000 to the National Debt, and raise the balance of £15,000,000 out of the current taxation. We need hardly point out that whether the whole or half or any portion of the deficit is funded, new or increased taxation will have to be proposed, because the interest will in any event have to be added to the present expenditure. Nothing seems to us more futile than to suggest to the Chancellor of the Exchequer new taxes. Everybody wants to tax everybody but himself, and all increased or new taxes arouse opposition. The higher officials of the Inland Revenue and Customs departments feel the fiscal pulse of the community, and they supply the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the data for a safe conclusion, which is the line of least resistance. We have our fads, like another. We should like to see the revival of duties on sugar, timber, grain, and flour imported from countries not within the Empire. We should support a heavy specific duty on the import of diamonds and precious stones. But we should think it an impertinence to push these "specialities" of ours upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who alone has the means of judging. Upon the principle, however, we are entitled to insist. We think that the just and safe limit of direct taxation has been reached. Facts are stronger than theories: and the events of the last eighteen months have done more than all the writings and speeches of dead or living men to drive us to the tariff as the means of providing the funds for the increasing cost of empire.

PEKING AND THE PROVINCES.

CONFIDENT with the confidence begotten of an ignorance about China greater even than that which prevails to-day England set out, forty years ago, to strengthen the Central Power. We were going to centralise the finances as well as the forces, and to use a Government which it was presumed would be grateful and docile to impose reform on the Provinces from above.

China being the venue, things turned out, of course, exactly the reverse. Instead of an Imperial authority, supreme and centralised as we had chosen to assume, we were really in presence of a congeries of satrapies each bound to contribute its quota to the Imperial Exchequer and to obey Imperial decrees but each possessing a large degree of financial and administrative independence. We assumed the existence of progressive instincts at the capital, or at any rate the possibility of evolving them; whereas the only discernible signs of progress have been in the Provinces, and ultra-conservatism accomplished two years ago a reactionary coup d'état at Peking. To what the negation of

capacity exhibited at the capital is due may be an interesting point of philosophic doubt: partly, perhaps, to ignorance, partly to corruption, partly to the effect of an atmosphere that has been known to affect the judgment even of Europeans whose reputation stands otherwise high. Suppose we recognise the fact and change our methods. Having failed to impose reform from above—failed even to support a Reforming Emperor when there was at last a chance of producing some effect through Peking—let us try what can be done in the Provinces, where there is better evidence of goodwill.

Lord Lansdowne recently repudiated any desire to use the present situation in China as a lever for bringing about internal reforms; although he should, he said, be sorry to have it understood that he despaired of seeing reforms carried out. Much depends on what is meant by using the situation as a lever. That it would be "a serious undertaking" to insist on the Court promulgating a drastic scheme of reform and to provide a sufficient compelling force, may be admitted. But if it is meant that we are to go on "letting I dare not wait upon I would, like the poor cat i' the adage," in the hope that reforms will generate themselves without help, we reply that that is a policy making straight for insurrection and eventual partition. It is possible, of course (as a well-known authority on China remarked shortly after the coup d'état) that the clouds may disperse and the lion lie down with the lamb, and Reform arise out of the present turmoil like the Amrit in Hindu mythology from the churning of the gods; but it is possible also that the present régime may be overthrown amid disturbances that will invite foreign intervention; and an intelligent appreciation of facts suggests the wisdom of trying to avert a calamity which might surpass that we have just witnessed tenfold.

The events of the past year, and in particular the behaviour of our soldiery, have made the English the least disliked and the most trusted among Western nations. We have the sympathy, especially, of the Reformers; and there are more Reformers in the Yangtze region than in the rest of the eighteen provinces. It may be that one like Chang Chi-tung, whose motto is China for the Chinese, loves us best in the capacity of possible opponents of Russia. But he has the wisdom to know that foreigners cannot be expelled, and that they know much which China would do well to learn. It was at his suggestion that the Emperor decreed, in July 1898, that candidates should be examined in short practical essays, instead of in subjects from the Confucian analects. That decree was one of the first to be rescinded after the coup d'état, and it is a remarkable evidence of strength that Chang himself weathered the reactionary storm. It was against the Yangtze Viceroyalties that the anti-foreign movement broke nine months ago; and it is the Yangtze Viceroys again, including this time the Governor-General of Szechuen, who have protested with so much energy and effect against an Agreement that would have constituted Manchuria a fief of Russia.

We have heard of Egyptianising the Yangtze, but the phrase is liable to convey an exaggerated impression. Very few who know China would be willing to undertake, in respect of the great area and great population of the Yangtze region, the responsibilities which we have taken upon ourselves in the valley of the Nile. The suggestion is that we should begin moderately by inaugurating more direct relations with the Provincial Authorities, and supplying them with the advice and help which British Indian officials have rendered the King of Siam. The provincial administration is less corrupt than the Imperial for reasons in which Peking placemen and the Palace entourage loom large. But it none the less needs drastic reform if China is to accommodate herself to the requirements of Foreign intercourse and modern finance; and all experience leads us to hope that reform can be effected more readily piecemeal with the assent of the Provincial officials than by awaiting wholesale dictation from Peking. It is well to realise, moreover, that China is a big country and will not be reformed in a swoop. Since a beginning must be made let us begin, say, at Nanking with fiscal reform. We have heard a good deal lately

—some of it rather incongruous—about Chinese finance. The abolition of *likin* is demanded by one, while additional taxation to provide the prospective indemnity is suggested by another.

A study of the lucid report which Mr. George Jamieson wrote upon Chinese revenue and expenditure, five years ago, may inspire conviction that what is really needed is reform—and reform only—to enable China to meet her obligations without subjecting the people to additional taxation they might hardly endure. It is questionable whether such a complex and wasteful system as Mr. Jamieson describes could be reformed by native agency alone. The opposition would be too great, and confidence in beneficial results from simplification wanting. The oriental idea is to multiply taxes. An English financier would begin by reducing and abolishing many of the imposts, while endeavouring to systematise the collection of the rest. That is the procedure which Mr. Mitchell-Innes adopted in Siam, with the effect of demonstrating that half the number of taxes could be made more productive than the whole. But support as cordial as that which the King of Siam afforded would be necessary to achieve similar results in the great Viceroyalties which exceed Siam in area and population as they might be made to exceed her in resources and power. Questioned a fortnight ago by Mr. Yerburch as to the willingness of the Government to assist Liu Kun-yi and Chang Chi-tung in introducing reforms within their own province and guarantee them freedom from interference, Mr. Balfour replied in terms that fail to carry conviction of purpose or discernment of needs. "The development of China and its opening to foreign trade" are superficial expressions of desiderata which can only be attained by reform. *Likin* can be dispensed with only on condition of fiscal reform. The chief obstacle to the development of trade is the multiplicity of exactions that can be got rid of only through drastic change. It is a common saying that all the bamboos grown in China would not make pens enough to describe the iniquities of the salt collectorate, and the analogy of India suggests that the Land Tax ought to yield several times the amount which the Board of Revenue at Peking professes to receive. That the local officials receive salaries so small that they must speculate to live is now pretty generally realised. Colonels of regiments grow rich by keeping 250 men while drawing pay for 500, and no Chinese official would care to undertake, or be allowed probably to carry out, the drastic changes which the cleansing of such an Augean stable implies. A false charge of some kind would be laid against him and the collective influence of Peking placemen exerted to sustain it and procure his dismissal. Those who still entertain hopes for the future well-being of the Empire base them on the condition that help support and encouragement shall be given to enlightened and well-disposed officials before it is too late. Let it be repeated that our policy of centralisation has been little successful. The reed which we leant upon has pierced our hand. If we are earnest in desiring the integrity and prosperity of China, let us take some practical steps to secure the end. The confidence which prompted the Viceroy of Nanking to invite our effective co-operation nine months ago has been strengthened, it is believed, rather than lessened by the good behaviour of our soldiers and the discretion of our official on the spot. It is believed that both he and Chang Chi-tung are disappointed at the omission from the preliminary demands of a clause insisting on Administrative Reform. Let us take advantage of these favourable dispositions to help them to set an example to the capital and to create in the region under their control a leaven that may eventually permeate the mass.

REX v. THE SCHOOL BOARD.

TEACHING the School Board of London is a pretty expensive process for the ratepayers. If any member of "the Board" had to pay out of his own pocket the lawyers' fees to argue again the points in the Cockerton case, he would deny himself the luxury unless he were a millionaire with a craze for

litigation. After the judgment of the Appeal Court delivered on Monday there cannot be the least doubt in the mind of any intelligent person either on the Board or off it that all has been said that can be said for the claim the Board makes to give under the name of elementary education what is not elementary education and to give it to scholars who are adults and not children. There is not a single argument put forward by the Board that has been accepted by the Courts, or that has given them the least difficulty in the world to reject. In the Divisional Court the judges were unanimous: in the Court of Appeal it was the Court's judgment that the Master of the Rolls read: and this does not imply that there might be a dissentient judge as there might be in a case before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Five judges in all have considered the points raised, and none of them has a shadow of doubt to suggest which would furnish a plausible basis for an appeal to the House of Lords. Nothing new can be said, and there is no diversity of opinion amongst the judges. In such circumstances an appeal becomes an extravagance against which the ratepayers would be justified in protesting. It is not only in the Irish Land Court, as our correspondent Mr. Geo. Gordon may be interested to know, that an unrestrained system of appeals is a reproach to the administration of justice. Under the Judicature Acts as conceived by Lord Selborne a Court, whose several members could not have been more distinguished than the judges of the Court of Appeal, would at this stage of the case have been the final Court. A fair-minded litigant who did not merely wish to harass and perhaps ruin his opponent would in such circumstances as those of the Cockerton case be satisfied that his legal position had been as satisfactorily defined as it can be by any group of human intellects. We think the appeal to a body like the London School Board not to go on fighting a hopeless case far from irrelevant. They have not only a duty to respect the pockets of the ratepayers but to refrain from litigating out of pure obstinacy; a frame of mind which is by no means pleasing from a moral point of view.

In the Divisional Court Mr. Justice Wills and Mr. Justice Kennedy dealt more generally and at large on the meaning that may reasonably be given to the term elementary education and to the word children than the Lords Justices in the Court of Appeal. But the latter confirmed without a shade of hesitation all that the Divisional Court had said as to the unreasonable extension of the terms which were given to them by the School Board. The Court of Appeal has not suggested any new way of looking at the question but has emphasised the position taken up by the Divisional Court, and in addition has undertaken a more minute and elaborate analysis of the Acts of Parliament from which alone the School Board derives its powers. Then again no doubts are expressed of the Divisional Court's conclusion: no new clauses are discovered which the Divisional Court had overlooked: and to none of the clauses actually considered by it is given the slightest difference of construction. Had the School Board been dumped down with merely the general instruction to give elementary education to children its own opinion of the construction of these terms might have been as worthy of respect as that of the judges. But that is not the position. Those terms must be construed by means of the sections of Acts of Parliament, and this the Divisional Court and the Court of Appeal have done with a force absolutely fatal to the contention of the School Board. The Master of the Rolls is also a master in this kind of analysis and disquisition. He would not so naturally as Mr. Justice Wills and Mr. Justice Kennedy direct his attention to the purely abstract and general consideration of the question; but historically and concretely a subject could not be considered by a sounder head. What he has done is to show more clearly even than was done by the Divisional Court that the Whitehall Code and the South Kensington Directory have been throughout the long history of Acts of Parliament from 1870 down to 1891 absolutely distinct in origin and aim and in their sources of public support. The School Board has never had

the shade of a pretence for its asserted power of giving the education of the Directory. It has had as little ground for including the South Kensington Directory in its curriculum as it has for claiming that because it can give technical and manual instruction under the Whitehall Code it can extend itself throughout on the subjects included in the Technical Education Acts. In such analogies as these lies the whole fallacy of the Board's action. It was a fallacy of the blackest colour to extract from the legal definition that "an elementary school is one in which elementary education is the principal part of the education there given," the consequence that any other kind of education could therefore be given as well, because the school would not thereby cease to be elementary. The real meaning of "elementary school" was shown by the Lord Justice—by reference to the voluntary elementary schools existing before the 1870 Act and their exclusion from its benefit where their fees amounted to more than ninepence a week.

What then is the apology for the Board's mistakes? It is simply this: there was a public necessity for the kind of educational work which it undertook without possessing the legal powers. The judges in both Courts, it may be noticed, recognised this as the result of their inquiry and spoke as if they had in their minds the old Terentian phrase "Summum ius, summa malitia." The kind of education the Board wished to give should be given; but be given as part of the scheme of secondary education which must be pushed on with greater zeal by the Government by reason of this very case. It is out of the question that the necessary powers can be conferred on School Boards or that the cost can be provided out of the rates. As educational authorities the School Boards are a very partial success; and they compare very unfavourably with the Statutory Committees of County Councils and Borough Councils that have been entrusted with technical education. With the money provided for this higher elementary or secondary education by the Imperial Government, and the administration in the hands of the minister working the secondary education system and the statutory committees combined, we shall have a much better chance of obtaining a real education for the classes to be provided for, than if it were in the hands of the School Boards. It may be necessary in the future to exercise much more control over the School Boards by the central authority than is possible at present, but the fact that such control suggests itself as a possibility is a warning against legalising the powers which the London School Board has exercised illegally. Whether they manage their elementary education well or ill, they have at least enough to do to manage it. A new machinery is required for grouping all the disconnected and heterogeneous voluntary bodies who are now engaged in doing similar work to that which the London School Board attempted. They should all be organised, controlled and supported as part of a regular system of secondary education provided by the State.

CHURCH STATISTICS.

STATISTICS are rarely more seriously misused than when they are invoked for the purpose of attacking or defending the Church; but as supplying a basis of fact, the figures so laboriously compiled by Canon Burnside in the "Official Year Book of the Church of England" just issued, may profitably be studied by all who care for the Church's well-being. These figures in the volume apply to the year ending Easter 1900. They thus cover the period of the outbreak of the South African war, and the months of deep anxiety that followed. It was a time when the incomes of many were diminished, and when subscriptions were largely diverted from home charities and applied to one or other of the War funds. No one would be surprised if voluntary contributions for Church work had fallen off, and the totals had proved to be lower than for some years past.

What has actually occurred is the reverse of this. As far as money can witness to the true work of the Church, the figures before us show a generally healthy

condition. The grand total of voluntary contributions of churchmen for the year was £7,770,992, an increase of over £300,000 on the year before. It is nothing to boast of. In the same year the nation had a hundred and thirty millions in the Post Office Savings Bank alone, and spent a hundred and sixty-four millions on alcoholic drinks. Still, it is something in the circumstances to have made progress at all.

It was feared, and not without reason, that the Aid Grant would tend to lessen the contributions of churchmen to voluntary schools, and for a year or two they showed a decline. But for the year under review there is an increase in voluntary subscriptions of over £17,000. Indeed the figures show a small increase all along the line—there are 11,264 more school places, 2,865 more children on the registers, and the average attendance has grown by 10,561. The whole of the contributions of churchmen to the cause of religious education reach nearly a million pounds a year.

In the work of church building and church restoration there are signs that we are recovering from the stagnation that marked the last decade. In the year 1899 sixty new churches were consecrated—including some that were only rebuilt. This is an advance of ten on the year before and of eighteen on the year before that. The most striking progress is in Wales. Llandaff has the longest list of new churches of any diocese in England or Wales—forty-seven against forty-one in London; Manchester coming next with thirty-eight. After all that we have heard of the growth of church life and influence in Cornwall, it is disappointing to see that not a single new church has been consecrated in the Diocese of Truro since 1890. The total of voluntary offerings for church building has grown from £1,198,000 to £1,230,000, and the sum raised for "Maintenance of Church Services" is larger by £24,000 than that recorded for the year before.

The first need of the Church is a highly qualified ministry, adequate in numbers to meet the ever growing demand caused by the rapid increase of population and the higher standard of energy and service. Unhappily there is no sign of this need being met. The number of candidates for Holy Orders has been steadily decreasing since 1895: the number ordained last year being 650 against 661 the year before, and more than a hundred less than ten years ago. The seriousness of these facts has been widely recognised by the bishops. It has been discussed in Convocation, at the Church congresses and in numberless diocesan and other conferences—but no agreement has been reached as to the causes of this failure—nor any very practical suggestions made how to arrest it. It has been very wisely determined that the need must not be met by any lowering of the standard. The education, the intellectual activity of the age demand an even higher standard of thought and knowledge among the clergy, and we are glad to note that the number of literates is not gaining on those ordained from our great universities.

There are figures in the Year Book which may have something to do with this lack of men. It is impossible to look at the return of the incomes of the beneficed clergy without seeing that a considerable number must be in chronic poverty, and not a few in real distress. The tithe rent charge stands now at the lowest point it has ever reached, and yet the funds for the "educational and charitable assistance" of the clergy fell last year by some £17,000. There will always be men who will cheerfully face a life of poverty in obedience to a Divine call, but it cannot be good for the Church that the status of her clergy should be lower than that of the farmers around them, or that they should live in the domestic conditions of Goldsmith's Vicar of Wakefield. There will always be men whose private incomes will enable them to take poor livings—but wealth ought not to be a condition of ordination. "I should be a happy man" said Bishop Creighton "were it not for my patronage, and I could bear that if I had not so often to think first of a man's pocket and afterwards of his spiritual qualifications." This is a matter to be dealt with by the laity, and there is no more pressing claim to their serious thought.

PROVINCIALISM AND MODERN PROGRESS.

PEOPLE who are compelled or accustomed to live in London continuously, who rarely walk or drive to any of its outlying districts, and who generally, when they leave it, leave it by an express train, bound for some distant county or else for some foreign country, are apt to look upon the metropolis as a place so immense, and so deeply surrounded by a belt of increasing suburbs, that the traditional rural life and rural quiet of England hardly exist within a distance of fifty miles of it: and if ever they find themselves guests at one of the many country houses which stand surrounded by parks, within twenty miles of Charing Cross, they are constantly expressing surprise, as they cast their eyes round them, and exclaiming "Who could imagine that London was so near!" This surprise, though partly due to inacquaintance with the localities in question, is also due partly to other and more interesting causes. The physical fact that London is surrounded by farms and woods and meadows, and that its streets, terraces, and rows of semi-detached houses do not extend to a distance of more than nine miles from its centre, is merely one aspect of the fact that London is not larger than it is. It is not, however, this physical fact alone which tends to render the aspect of our suburban country strange. What is most striking in it is not the fact that it is country, but that, in many directions, it is country of a curiously primitive character. The villages have all the air of villages of the last century. There are old inns unchanged since the days of coaches. There are public-houses with signs swinging in the broad street, just as we see them represented in Hogarth's pictures. There are quaint secluded dwellings, half-cottage, half-villa, which seem to belong to the time of Strawberry Hill. There are farms and farm-buildings, carelessly and picturesquely irregular, like those which George Eliot has described so well, as characteristic of the England which existed before railways and the first Reform Bill. And far more strikingly primitive are the looks and the demeanour of the people. The rural labourers within fourteen miles of London are as leisurely in their gait, and seem as strange to the hurry of modern life, as the figures which encounter one slouching along a Shropshire lane, or lifting their cider-kegs in a remote Devonshire hay-field. In point of dress, indeed, the former are often more primitive than the latter. It is in the country close to London that the smock-frock has survived longest. Smock-frocked ploughmen only a few years ago might be seen amongst their furrows, within a gunshot of the Alexandra Palace; whilst from one of the towers at Sydenham a man with a good telescope might detect to-day on the village-greens of Kent men and women who might be denizens of the "Sweet Auburn" of Goldsmith. In this fact there is, indeed, something striking—this persistence of traditional and local habit amongst all the changes so distinctive of modern progress. Nor is it by any means exemplified amongst the poorer classes only. In spite of the cosmopolitan spirit which rapid travelling generates, the spirit of locality is still strong, as is shown by the vitality of the innumerable local newspapers, which flourish in districts almost within sight of the metropolis. To readers of these journals the local flower-show, fête and cricket club, are far more important than any similar events in London. The clergyman, the doctor, the villa-residents, the farmers, all revolve round the same local axis, and the rumour of London merely reaches them "like a tale of little meaning, though the words are strong."

But it is not only in the country which surrounds London that local spirit shows itself in such a striking manner. This same spirit, though it is not so superficially apparent, exists in London itself. There, however, it is less an affair of physical locality than of class. In spite of the publicity given by social newspapers to the doings of the fashionable or the quasi-fashionable world, the wealthier inhabitants of London are made up of innumerable sections, each of which knows very little of the doings of any of the others. Let anyone who is accustomed to what is usually called society dine with someone who is outside the circle in which he moves habitually, and he will find himself in

what is, in many ways, a totally new country. Persons and interests, which are to him notorious, he will find in this milieu to be altogether unknown; and other persons and incidents—marriages, deaths, parties, hostesses, wits, beauties, to him equally strange—will form the subjects of conversation. Similarly a man who is accustomed to the society of intellectual people—whose friends for the most part have some knowledge of science, of historical criticism, and the literary history of the Bible—will often be made to fancy that he has been transplanted into another century by finding himself in a company of agreeable men and women, who, though seeming, in aspect and manner, to be as modern as fashion can make them, still believe Moses to be the unquestioned author of "Genesis;" and have not the slightest idea that the doctrine of the fall of man, and the descent of all men from Adam, requires any modification in order to bring it into accordance with the discoveries of the modern ethnologist and the modern student of anthropology. The mental conditions, in fact, of persons who live close together, who have been at the same schools, who have been similarly educated, and who belong to the same social class, are often divided from one another by invisible partition walls as completely as two houses, which touch each other in the same street, are divided from one another by eighteen inches of bricks and mortar.

This curious and persistent separation of various sections of a population, which so many influences tend to convert into an homogeneous fluid, is revealed in a striking way by the persistence of local dialects. Board schools and newspapers have, it is true, done much to obliterate the interesting peculiarities of the old local vocabularies. So far as mere words are concerned, a native of Northumberland to-day would probably express himself very much like a native of Essex or Cornwall. But though the local vocabulary is disappearing, the local accent and the local intonation remain. In the very heart of the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire, at railway junctions filled with the hurry of modern traffic, porters may be found whose language, without close attention, is, owing to its accent and intonation, absolutely unintelligible to the stranger. In Scotland, the same phenomenon is no less striking. A paragraph in the "Glasgow Herald" if merely read by the eye is very much like a paragraph in the "Morning Post;" but if the two were to be read aloud by their respective authors, the difference between them would strike the hearer far more forcibly than the resemblance. Again a well-educated clerk in a business house in Glasgow will be easily distinguishable in his talking from a similar clerk in Edinburgh; whilst Aberdeen boasts of an accent and intonation which are at once recognised, even by the English ear, as totally distinct from anything else in Scotland. And yet all these towns are now practically nearer to each other than Hampton Court was to London, in the days of the "Great Anna," and as near it as Oxford and Cambridge were, when the fathers of many of us were undergraduates.

All these facts show what we are too apt to forget—that the tendency of modern progress to make life level and uniform, and to rob it of the rich variety which distinguished it in former days, is a tendency which is limited by a number of resisting forces; nor is it difficult to see what these forces mainly are. In the first place, though the increased and increasing facility of locomotion seems to put it in the power of anybody to live anywhere, everybody must spend the larger part of his life somewhere; and it is only the members of a leisured class—necessarily a small minority—who, for most of the months of each year, are not rooted to one spot. From that fixed centre the train, and more especially the bicycle, enable them to make excursions of a length not dreamed of by our ancestors; but their length is generally limited by the possibilities of a day's excursion, and the hours of rest and enjoyment between the outward and the homeward journey. The surrounding localities which the excursionists thus visit are to them agreeable spectacles which refresh them by their comparative strangeness; but the interests and influences which really mould their lives, and most strongly colour their imagination, are those belonging to their immediate place of residence—to the familiar scenes which

surround them from week to week, and the people they meet and mix with a dozen times a day. Even the rich, who, so far as movement goes, are theoretically their own masters, are practically, to a great extent, limited in the same way. Two country gentlemen, whose houses are but twenty miles apart, will constantly pass months without either of them entering the other's door, merely owing to the fact that to do so would occupy an entire day; and five hours on the road practically represent a sacrifice which is not counter-balanced by a luncheon and two or three hours of conversation. Few people realise how vast and far-reaching are the results produced in life by the existence of seemingly slight obstacles. But it is not merely the obstacles to frequent movement which tend to localise the lives of the great majority of mankind. Local attachment, and the indolence or repose of habit, are causes which even more efficaciously contribute to the same result; and to these causes must be added yet another—namely the limitations of friendship and acquaintance. It is only the rich or those belonging to a rich society, whose acquaintances and friends are distributed over all parts of a country, and who can live in many places without finding themselves amongst strangers.

Thus while on the one hand the appliances of modern civilisation, and the modern developments of knowledge, are tending, so far as they go, to produce a sort of uniform cosmopolitanism, and to reduce to one pattern the habits, the knowledge, and the beliefs of men, there are on the other hand ineradicable facts of human nature and human circumstances, which militate against this process, which still preserve, in the face of all adverse influences, a diversity of special characteristics in diverse localities and classes, and thus are constantly re-endowing life with a freshness, a variety, and a vitality, which it would otherwise altogether lose. It is perhaps more important to note that this same diversity is the source of the world's unacknowledged conservatism, or, in other words, of its social stability. The causes of this stability, taken one by one, seem so trivial as to be almost imperceptible; but how many of the most important facts in human life and history, in the actions of the individual and the possible developments of society, are due to the constant co-operation of apparently slight causes!

THE OLD ZOO AND THE NEW.

IV.—THE GARDEN OF DELIGHT. (*Concluding Article.*)

HAVING described the ape and parrot-house of a Gardens of the future our imaginary correspondent might go on to say "Other changes have been made in the same spirit. Animals, such as the larger deer and antelopes, requiring and as one may almost say, imploring more space than can even now be afforded them, have in many cases found a home within the parks and estates of members of the nobility or others whose means and dispositions allow of their keeping such wonders of creative energy in a humane and worthy manner, while the space thus left vacant and the expenditure saved has been bestowed on those more fitted for captivity but for whom little had before been done. Take, for instance, the seals. They were thought well off in a basin large enough for a fountain to play in. Yet anyone who had been to the Cologne Gardens and seen the small canal with an artificial rockery at one end of it, where the great sea-bear with his harem was accustomed to lie and from the summit of which they would all precipitate themselves into the water, must have recognised that the happiness of our own specimens as well as that of those watching them was of a very comparative kind. Ah, you should see the seal-pond now! It is really a considerable sheet of water with windings and indentations and having in it more than one artificial island or, rather, cluster of rocks. The shores are a mass of rockery rising in some places abruptly from the water's edge to a considerable height—and from there the seals are accustomed to leap—whilst in others a gently sloping acclivity allows them to land and wind their way—a thing charming to see—to the summit. More than this, the principle of the refrigerator has actually been employed

and one may see grottoes where these Arctic creatures are lying amidst real—or at any rate artificial—ice, and immensely enjoying the temperature. Some penguins have been introduced, and it is found that these birds and the seals get on very well together, as might have been expected where anything like space was granted them. Gulls, puffins, cormorants, are here also. This principle of placing together animals, however different, which either live so in nature or can, by virtue of their habits, be induced to under artificial conditions is now much attended to. We thus get, as it were, a picture of nature 'in little' and we have, here, a humane, as opposed to a cruel economy of space. How delightful is a sight like this after such as we were accustomed to! To see—as in the old days we had to see—such birds as penguins, cormorants, puffins, or African darters confined in miserable iron cages or a two-foot square box made into a clumsy hutch was revolting, or should have been revolting, to anyone. How could men—humane no doubt according to their lights—have consented to keep such beings upon such terms? Did they know their habits? Had they watched any of their domestic scenes? To cage them off so cruelly from all their destinies! But it is the ages, surely, that move and not the men that live in them. Sir Thomas More—great and good man that he was—was yet (as noticed by Lecky in this connexion) an adept in the gentle art of cock-shying. Let it not be thought, then, that injustice animates me. I must now tell you about the wild sheep and goats. Oh glorious! There are no more sheep-stys, there are no more square patches of mud. Here again—it seems wonderful—a principle has at last been adopted which was always employed at the Gardens of Cologne. The various walks are spanned at intervals by bridges of artificial rock-work having even in themselves a very pleasing appearance which is increased tenfold by the sight of various kinds of ibexes, chamois, mouflons &c. walking across them sometimes singly, sometimes in family parties—father, mother and little frisking kids. On each side of the bridge there is an enclosed space of considerable size—also containing a rockery—into which the creatures descend. How they love these bridges! They are always upon them and to see them thus outlined against the sky and in mid air as though upon their own mountains is an immense delight. It is, indeed, the most picturesque feature of the Gardens. What, too, would you say to the new kind of bear-house? A circle of bars which curve inward and are therefore unscaleable—or in some cases where it is feared they might not be, a wall with bars let into the masonry—has been drawn round trees, often of large size, but beyond the spread of their lower boughs. Imagine this!—and the principle has been extended to many other climbing animals, including some feline ones, such as the lynx, the puma, the jaguar and a number of the smaller cats. It is a mistake to imagine that most—perhaps any—of the larger felidæ require great warmth. Tigers for instance range into an almost arctic climate, the puma prowls over nearly the entire length of North and South America, whilst the jaguar also is found far down in the southern continent. So too with the bears, even the more tropical forms support our climate perfectly well, amongst them the small and extremely arboreal Malayan bear. This dear little creature, now always climbing, had not, as you may remember, even a tree-trunk in its old preposterous place. A scheme to hoist beehives into the higher branches by means of a pulley—thus giving an interesting object-lesson in ursine habits—is also in contemplation. With what other ideas should rational beings keep animals in confinement?

"As for the monkey-house it is not inferior to the 'palace,' as I have heard it called, of the higher and more man-like apes. Think of the change which this implies! How often in the old days have we asked one another why there were neither trees nor tree-trunks in cages made for monkeys, why there were no swings, why, if not branches or creepers, ropes at least were not dangling from the roof or trailed along it by means of which these little bosky Pucks could hang suspended, swing, dash, frolic, almost fly—why in short there was absolutely nothing but a few straight, transverse bars! The most arboreal of monkeys could

hardly be said to *climb* a transverse bar, so that here we had as an actual fact what might hardly, perhaps, have been credited had it been told as a tale—viz. that a certain Society being in possession of certain monkeys designed for and put them into certain cages where, unless it were up the wires of the same, they were unable to climb. Why it was as if one had put the members of such a Society into houses or clubs where there were no proper facilities for their being dull and unimaginative—and think of the cruelty of that! No doubt they could have managed—and so did the monkeys—but why should not nature be assisted? Members of human clubs and societies have for long had their papers to read, their cigars to fondle, their pieces of cardboard to play with, but it is only now that the monkeys at the Gardens have their swings, their ropes and their trees. One wonders sometimes what were the old fossilised ideas that led that old fossilised society into such an absurdity. Possibly they held the view that monkeys did not care about climbing and that therefore such things as the above would give them no pleasure whatever. However, perhaps all of us, and more particularly the monkeys, had reason even then to be thankful that it was no worse. Instead of cages having only transverse bars without swings, ropes or tree-trunks, there might have been long rows of barrel-organs with a monkey tied to each; for a Zoological Society that designed a parrot-house—at least the interior of it—on the model of an over-packed bird-dealer's shop might well have taken what it saw in the streets as an object-lesson in monkey-houses.

"But now what will you say when I tell you that the Gardens themselves have become a park where some of the tamer and quieter creatures are allowed freely to range? This applies to many of the smaller deer and antelopes, also of the sheep and goats and—most wonderful of all—to several of the kangaroos. And yet why wonderful? Were they not to be seen at Tring and on several other estates? Naturally the shrubberies, plants &c. have been arranged in accordance, nor is it attempted to have at the same time and to an equal degree a zoological and a botanical gardens. Still I can assure you the combination is extremely pretty, and a various creatures require various coverts the gain has been almost as much in the one direction as the other. As for the many kinds of birds—but I have written so much that I must leave this to your imagination, after just telling you that besides those in the aviary macaws and others of the parrot tribe fly free about the Gardens of the present Society as they did long ago about those of a certain Mr. Buxton in Norfolk.

"Acclimatisation, indeed, played a principal part in the old Society's programme, but if 'hell is paved'—as we are told it is—'with good intentions,' I think it must be papered with programmes. But how I rejoice, my dear friend, to see these things accomplished, actually existing, facts! Whilst they were only suggestions how many sought to prove them impossible! They were Utopia then but they have come, they are here. It is ever so. Show me the man who to every fair dream of advance murmurs 'Utopia' and I will show you the five-toed sloth—a commoner species, believe me, than the two- or three-toed one with which we, as naturalists, are acquainted."

Thus when the mummies have slept their time over again may someone who had known the old Gardens write of the new ones.

THE ART OF ROWING "STROKE."

IT is not easy to discuss the merits of the "stroke" of a crew in any race without appearing to speak of the rest of the crew as if they were mere puppets in his hands, so let us announce at once that nothing we may say with regard to the University strokes of this year is intended in any way to minimise the performance of any man who took part in last Saturday's race. Of individuals there can be no doubt that stroke has a very direct influence on a boat's chances of success, and even the arrogant little race of coxswains have been heard to say that, in importance, the position of stroke is second only to their own.

Those who have had the privilege of watching crews

from the coach's launch at Putney, and those who have stayed at Henley during the week preceding the regatta and have studied the form of the various competitors will appreciate the truth of the statement that there are certain qualifications apart altogether from whether a man rows in good or bad form which stamp him as a good or a bad stroke. It has also often been said, and said truly, that a good stroke *nascitur non fit*; but many experienced oarsmen and coaches, who have convinced themselves of the truth of this last statement, are quite unable to define the particular merits which go to make a man "a born stroke." If a coach wishes to make up his mind whether a man is or is not a good stroke, he is influenced more by watching the performances of the men behind him than by studying the form of the man himself. In recent years there have been some good strokes who have had so faulty a style of rowing that at first sight one would have thought that they were by no means desirable exponents of the art of rowing to set the work for a crew, but yet the crews behind them always shook together in practice and were at their very best on the day of the race. There have been others who appeared to row in fairly correct form, but behind whom a crew never seemed comfortable, and failed when hard pressed to do justice to the reputation they had acquired in practice. The capabilities of a stroke cannot be judged solely from his racing record, and it is not a fair criticism of a man to say that he has not shown himself to be a good stroke because he has never won any sensational race after a stern chase, or because he has won most of his races easily, for it may have been in a large measure due to his qualifications as a stroke during practice that his crew has so often been superior to his rivals. During practice a good stroke is one who is regular in his rowing, and easy to follow; he must give the big men plenty of time to finish the stroke out; he must keep them swinging steadily and in a trial over the whole or any portion of the course he must get every possible ounce of work out of them, so that they are completely rowed out without having got short or flurried on the way. In a race he must know the capabilities of his crew and must be able to feel how they are going, when they want easing off and when they are capable of higher pressure, while above all he must have that degree of generalship which will enable him to decide in a well-contested race when to put the pressure on in order to take the advantage of station at a certain point of the course, when to ease off if he is holding his opponent at a slower rate of stroke, how far it is necessary for him to save himself for an effort at the end, and especially in a really close contest the exact moment at which he should make what was described by the Belgian crew at Henley last year as the "grande attaque."

It would be impossible to find two better examples of the art of rowing "stroke" in a race than the respective performances of Mr. Culme Seymour and Mr. Maitland in last Saturday's Boat Race. In order to appreciate the tactics of the race, it is necessary to consider for a moment the geography of the course and the state of the weather. Cambridge, it will be remembered, won the toss and rowed from the Surrey station. For the first mile there is a bend in favour of the Middlesex boat, but this advantage was practically neutralised by the wind (a gale from S.S.W.) which although favourable at first was blowing rather off the Surrey shore. Below Hammersmith Bridge begins the long bend in favour of the Surrey boat; and the advantage to that station was increased by the shelter from a cross-wind which was afforded by the bank as far as Chiswick Eyot, and by the fact that from that point nearly to the old Lyric Club at Barnes there was only a narrow strip of water in which a racing boat could live and that close under the Surrey shore. From Barnes to the finish (about 3½ minutes' rowing) there is a bend in favour of the Middlesex station and the water was comparatively calm. After the boats had gone half a mile Oxford were half a length ahead and it was obvious that they would have to go at highest pressure if they were to have a chance of taking their opponents' water at Hammersmith. They were not going quite at their best for the rowing was rather "scrachy," and Mr.

Culme Seymour apparently made up his mind that the cutting down tactics involved too much risk in the circumstances. He accordingly slowed down a little and lengthened out a great deal, knowing that his chance would come later on. Then the Surrey corner began to tell in favour of Cambridge, who continued to work at top pressure, regained their position and were level at Hammersmith. Below Chiswick Eyt the crews met the full force of the wind and clouds of spray were seen coming from the riggers of the Oxford boat, while Cambridge under the shelter of the bank at once shot ahead. It was from this point on that Mr. Culme Seymour excelled himself. He slowed right down and they were cleverly steered by Mr. MacLagan right behind Cambridge and out of the roughest water. Both crews kept under the Surrey bank for a considerable distance above the usual crossing place. Mr. Culme Seymour's calm and unflurried rowing in this long chase was worthy of the greatest admiration, and his effort from Barnes to the finish was superb. The very moment that the worst water was passed Mr. MacLagan began to cross over and steer out from behind Cambridge, and as soon as he did so Mr. Culme Seymour began very gradually to work his crew up to top pressure, foot by foot, then yard by yard they rushed up until they had their opponents beaten about a hundred yards before the winning post. It was perfectly judged and perfectly carried out, and of course it goes without saying stroke was splendidly backed up by every single man behind him. The Cambridge stroke, Mr. Maitland, also rowed an extremely good race. He knew that Oxford were probably a faster crew than his own, he knew the advantage the toss had given him, and he knew what would happen if Oxford drew clear before Hammersmith. He accordingly drove his crew for all they were worth for the first mile and a half. He set them a long swinging stroke against the wind, and he made heroic efforts to stave off defeat, and in one spurt in particular they appeared to regain a few feet of their lost lead. We may see better crews, and we may see more finished oarsmen wielding the stroke oar from Putney to Mortlake, but it will be a long time before we see a better example of judgment and pluck than the respective performances of the two University strokes of 1901.

THE QUEEN'S MEMORIAL.

TWO announcements have been made of decisions by the committee charged to draw up a plan for the memorial to Queen Victoria. The first was made officially by Mr. Balfour. The space in front of Buckingham Palace is the site fixed upon, and Mr. Balfour, overvaluing surely the strain put upon his powers, professed himself incompetent to describe the scheme, but vaguely referred to it as architectural and scenic. One may guess that some sort of archway or screen is intended across the Mall, and that a statue will be a part of this, or will be erected separately in some relation to it. Given the site, the general idea is not a bad one. Buckingham Palace is a dreary pile, and the space in front of it a dull waste. An archway, screen or colonnade, if that is what is intended, might improve matters very much by masking the façade as one approaches from the Mall, and a statue, carefully designed as the pivot of such a scheme, would be well placed in front of the principal London palace. A very large sum of money will doubtless be collected, and it is a wise thing to give to an architect rather than to a sculptor a predominating part in the design, our sculptors being terribly weak on the architectural side.

So far then the scheme is reasonable, but the circumstantial announcement in the *Daily Chronicle* of the names of architects chosen to compete, and of the one sculptor already fixed upon, is much less satisfactory. If the *Chronicle's* information is correct, and the decision final, there will be dismay among architects, sculptors, and all who are anxious that the monument should be the best possible. The architects named are Messrs. T. G. Jackson, Aston Webb, Ernest George, Sir Thomas Drew, Dr. Rowand Anderson. There is none of these who has not a respectable claim to be included in a large list of competitors, but the list

given does not include one of the really original English architects now living. If these five gentlemen are chosen, at least twenty more have a right to feel aggrieved at being excluded. Mr. Jackson is a man of learning and taste, whose work at Oxford was much more sympathetic with its surroundings than the disfiguring additions by earlier hands. His vein has been a little overworked, perhaps, but it is conceivable that his ingenuity and taste, concentrated on this project, might produce a pleasing monument. His might very well be one of a dozen names. Mr. Aston Webb is an able organiser of buildings, whom no one, probably, would call a great artist. His hands and those of his staff must be full with the additions to the South Kensington Museum, and the kind of ability displayed in those additions is not what is wanted for so special a monument as the memorial. Mr. Ernest George is a still more surprising choice in so limited a number. His mind is that of the picturesque sketcher rather than of the monumental architect. He has enlivened certain London quarters with reminiscences of foreign travel, but the signature of a native architectural character is always missing. The remaining names on the list reveal the compromising committee-mind that has drawn it up. Three names have been chosen from England, therefore one must be thrown in from Ireland, and one from Scotland. Sir Thomas Drew's work is little known in England; Dr. Rowand Anderson is of the able organising type, and has attracted a good deal of talent to his office; but clearly these two names were put down as official heads of the profession in the two countries to give a look of impartiality all round.

If I have fairly stated the claims of the five competitors, it will be clear that the scheme is an unsatisfactory official compromise between two ways of doing the thing. No one would complain if one of the first-rate artists in the profession had been chosen and given the commission to make the best of. Thus I am convinced that every artist in the kingdom would have acquiesced if Mr. Norman Shaw had been invited to undertake the project. They would all have felt that he deserved the prize, that his design could not fail of interest and character, that the memorial to Queen Victoria had fallen to a designer in whom the Victorian and the artist have very conspicuously agreed. But such a decision would require in our rulers both taste and the courage of taste, and they have neither. It is better certainly not to have the courage without the taste, as is the case with the German Emperor, imperiously loading the earth at Berlin with his idea of heroic statues. But not very much better is the decision reported, which amounts to an advertisement of want of conviction. The committee has evidently said to itself, "Let us have no original men, for we have no means of telling whether they are really good or bad; let us go to the big respectable houses, that give satisfaction to the average client, and meddle as little as possible with the risks of art."

What then, is a committee to do that has no convictions of its own, and can only gather from official sources that certain firms are comparatively "safe"? Well, it dare not fix on one first-rate man, but since that is so why choose at all in the first instance, why not open the field to all architects for a preliminary competition? To official referees the committee must doubtless come first or last; but last is better than first. If you ask your architectural referee before plans are sent in, "Who are the men that can be safely entrusted with such a project?" he will name average well-known steady-going men of business. Ask the same man to adjudicate on plans sent in, and there is just a chance of his favouring a good design sent in by an unknown outsider, whom he would never have dreamed of recommending. The precedent of the Wellington Monument competition is there to prove it. Sir William Harcourt, the other day, repeated a familiar refrain about the wretched character of our public monuments. He forgot that we have one superb monument, and that obtained in public competition. It was obtained more by luck than judgment, it is true. Others gained the premiums, and the design of Stevens finally came to the front because it turned out to be the

only one that fitted under the arch. Our luck trembled, it will be seen, on a precarious chance, but there always is that chance, the probability that talent will win at one point if not at another, and escape, by sheer efficiency, all the guards of stupidity.

There is another reason, apart from the final choice of a designer, in favour of such a competition. A memorial like this stirs the imagination, and nothing would put more life into the schools of architecture and sculpture than emulous effort centred on such a monument, and crystallising the theories and tentatives that are groping for a style. It is quite conceivable that one of our younger architects might strike out a memorable design, certain that the effort on all sides, as in the old fresco competitions for the Houses of Parliament, would be quickening and educational.

Nothing has been said so far of the choice of a sculptor. Here the committee are credited with a single choice, that of Mr. Brock. Mr. Brock will certainly do nothing offensive; his work will be preferable, in a negative way, to the photographic and arts and crafts fashions in sculpture; but he will as certainly do nothing inspired. There have been two memorable designs for a statue of Queen Victoria. One was the project by Alfred Stevens for a monument of the Great Exhibition. It can be seen at South Kensington. If this had been carried out the Queen would have had a monument indeed, and it is to be wished that some sculptor of the needful modesty and ability should even yet take it in hand. I recommend the idea to committees up and down the country. The group of Continents that encircles the pedestal is a ready symbol of empire, and the younger Queen might stand for history's and the sculptor's sake. The other monument was Mr. Alfred Gilbert's at Winchester. Some demon plays havoc with many of Mr. Gilbert's designs, but this was a royal one. Is it incredible that England should throw up yet another sculptor, and was it not worth while searching for him? Nothing is more superfluous than middling sculpture or monumental architecture, and I argue in the hope that the reported scheme is not authentic or finally determined on. It would be too stupid to close all loopholes against genius.

D. S. M.

ENGLISH OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE future of opera in this country, I have frequently said, does not in the least depend upon what is done at Covent Garden. It depends entirely upon what is done by such companies as the Moody-Manners, which I regret to have had no opportunity of hearing yet, and the Carl Rosa, which I heard at New Cross on Thursday of last week. Doubtless in time other companies will spring up: in fact a Mr. Walther at present singing for the Rosa already announces that a company directed by himself will commence work next year; and there is talk of others. The real business will begin when some of these companies reach a pitch of artistic skill and certainty that will enable them to come to London and go to the provinces with the most difficult of Wagner's operas, with Gluck's, Mozart's and Weber's operas, and with Beethoven's one opera. Little or nothing towards the founding of a national opera is being done so long as Balfe and Wallace and Gounod are treated with the same respect as the mightiest masters. A public which likes Balfe will certainly like the music-hall, and is not unlikely to give the music-hall the first place in its affections. But a public which has once perceived the beauty and power of the great men will not want the music-halls save as an occasional change and will certainly avail itself of every opportunity of hearing fine opera. And only when the habit of going to fine opera is as common as is the present habit of going to hear stupid plays—only then will our own composers find opportunities of learning how to write good operas by hearing their bad or at any rate their unsatisfactory ones played.

By giving artistically cheap operas of the last generation or an even earlier period both the Carl Rosa and the Manners companies are taking away with one hand the things they are giving with the other. But since both are of opinion that they must live, they cannot be

blamed for going slow. I myself am firmly convinced that a company playing nothing but the noblest operas in a proper manner would have an immense success both in London and the provinces; but it is not my money which is risked in the Rosa and Manners concerns. For the present one must be content to know that if a lot of inferior stuff is being given, attempts are also being made to give fine opera. Mr. Manners, for example, has recently given "Tristan" in what I am informed was a creditable fashion with Miss Lucile Hill as Isolde, Mr. Hedmondt as Tristan, and with Mr. MacCunn as conductor; he has also given "Tannhäuser" on quite a gorgeous scale with Mr. Fischer-Sobell in the title-rôle. So far as I know, the Rosa people are not quite so ambitious, though they have bigger plans for the future. Of course they play "Lohengrin," but they did that some years before the national misfortune of Mr. Rosa's death occurred. Still, they are doing their best; and so last week I explored Deptford to hear what their best was like. It was very good; I have frequently heard "Tannhäuser" far less skilfully and sympathetically treated at Covent Garden. Mr. Goosens worked wonders with an orchestra which was largely scratch—only sixteen members travel with the company; in fact the uncertainty one felt for moments disappeared altogether in the more gorgeous and passionate moments of the music. The hero was played by a gentleman named Mr. Walther. He was described on the list of artists displayed both inside and outside of the theatre as "the great Wagnerian tenor." I had never heard of him, and I know most of "the great Wagnerian tenors:" indeed they are not so plentiful that one can easily miss or forget them. However, I concluded that the mistake was mine; but I had not heard Mr. Walther sing half a dozen phrases before it was clear to me that it was not; and the more he sang the more firmly I became convinced that if I had not heard of him as a "great Wagnerian tenor" it was because he is not a great Wagnerian tenor. Most emphatically he is not. I should describe Mr. Walther as a young man of some talent and the possessor of a fair voice. He has yet to learn the best mode of using that voice, and I warn him that if he persists in his present method in a very few years he will have no voice left to use. To force G's and A's may fetch the provincial or even a Greenwich gallery; but it would only make a Covent Garden audience squirm and laugh; and it destroys a sensitive voice faster than any plan I know. Mr. Walther seems to bring many of his high notes from just under the chin, and the effect is as disagreeable as the habit is ruinous. As for his acting, it cannot be described as bad. But Mr. Walther entirely lacks dignity on the stage: he trips about like a school-girl. He has as much to learn about acting as about singing; and if he will sing a little less and take advantage of such opportunities as he has of hearing and carefully watching the really fine artists who come to Covent Garden, he may ultimately make something of himself. Mr. Friend should see to it at once that the ludicrous, and very cruel, "great Wagnerian tenor" bluff is taken off the bill. It is grossly unfair to Mr. Walther. It arouses expectations which Mr. Walther will not for some years at least be able to come up to. As for the other artists, the Elisabeth, whose name I regret to say I have forgotten, was pleasing, though in a somewhat provincial fashion; the others also were competent, though I did not stay long enough to distinguish between them. On the whole the Carl Rosa Company seems to be conducting its affairs in a wiser and more artistic fashion at present than has been the rule for many years past.

A couple of concerts of last week demand some attention. First, a word about the Westminster Orchestral Society, which gave a very cheerful entertainment on the evening of Wednesday, 27 March. This is one of the best amateur societies I know. Mr. Stewart Macpherson trains and conducts it with infinite pains; there is some good material in the band; and one can hear a Mozart, Haydn or early Beethoven symphony played as well there as anywhere. Last week Goetz's symphony in F, which I should like to burn, was excellently rendered. Second, Mr. Wood's Wagner concert last Saturday in the Queen's Hall was from

every point of view an enormous success. The hall was packed, and every item of the programme which I heard was magnificently interpreted. The two finest pieces of work, however, were the prelude to the third act of "Tristan" and a selection from the last act of the "Mastersingers of Nuremberg." The breathless, stifling atmosphere of the first came off wonderfully, and the dreary, haunting cor anglais melody was beautifully played by, I presume, Mr. J. Fonteyn. None but the highest praise can be given to Mr. Wood's reading of the prelude and deathsong from "Tristan," but I sometimes have my doubts as to the wisdom of playing the two things as one piece. Everyone knows how the prelude ends: and after the pause one waits in a spirit of intense expectation for the curtain to rise and the sailor's song from the masthead to send the pungent briny odour of the sea-wind over the footlights and in that atmosphere the drama to begin. However, Mr. Wood played both things with infinite passion and beauty.

The old generation of musicians and men connected with music is thinning with appalling rapidity. First Sullivan, then Stainer a few days ago, and now D'Oyly Carte. The last of course was connected wholly with the business side of musical affairs; but there can be no doubt that the unheard-of success of the Gilbert-Sullivan operas was in a very large measure due to his enterprise and high ability. Sir John Stainer in his time did a useful work. I do not of course remember how bad the average Church of England service was thirty years ago; but by all accounts it must have been shocking. Stainer, more than any other man, effected the substitution of neatness and decency for wild disorder. The service at St. Paul's, as he shaped it, became the model for all other cathedral services, and on these in turn were modelled the services of all parish churches that pretended to anything at all in the way of music. As a composer he cannot be placed very high, though such anthems as "What are these arrayed in white robes" are full of genuine and tender feeling. As a man he was very different from the dour Academics who thought little of him. He was full of humour; and when he told the tale of the starting of the Royal College of Organists in the back-parlour of a public-house, with a candle stuck in the neck of an empty beerbottle for a light, or of the closing of the Training School of Music, one was compelled to be amused. He was an admirable man in every way, and I regret his death.

J. F. R.

MR. LYALL SWETE IN TWO PLAYS.

JUST now Mr. E. Lyall Swete is very much on my mind—a pleasant burden. I saw him again and again in Mr. Benson's series of productions, and I am inclined to blame myself for not having "spotted" and trumpeted him then. That he was a born actor I did realise, soon enough. But he is much more than that. Born actors are not so very uncommon. There are many men who can express themselves, easily and satisfactorily, through the medium of histrionic art. But, for the most part, themselves are not interesting creatures: they are not rich in thought or in passion. Consequently, their technical talent does not carry them far when they are cast for important parts. There are, conversely, a few actors who are well endowed in point of intellect or emotion or of both, but who cannot, unfortunately, act. (Mr. Benson himself is an example of the intellectual actor *minus* the specific vocation to the stage.) The great actor is he who can (1) bring great power of thought and of feeling to a part, and (2) communicate the result, readily and without loss, to the folk across the footlights. This combination of gifts is rare. Great actors are rare, accordingly. At first sight of so rare a bird one ought to make a considerable fuss. That Mr. Lyall Swete is a great actor I am convinced. Why, then, has my fuss about him been postponed to this moment? The explanation of my backwardness is more than a trifle humiliating. It is—it must be—that I have not the true *fleur* for acting. Had I that true *fleur*, I must surely have disengaged Mr. Swete from his Bensonian colleagues, and have guessed the infinite possibilities of him. I should not have been blinded by the fact that

in a stock-company great acting is not encouraged and is not possible. I should have remembered that Mr. Swete, playing more or less small parts in a round of Shakespearian drama, was bound by the laws of good-fellowship to subordinate himself to the *ensemble*. I should have remembered, further, that these parts are so clogged with tradition that, had he tried to take an unfair advantage of his colleagues by putting into them his whole heart and mind, he would probably have failed in the attempt. Realising all these reservations, I should have divined in Mr. Swete the peeps of authentic greatness. I beg your pardon, and his, for having done nothing of the sort. In mitigation of your contempt, and his, I may plead that, lamentable as it is not to perceive greatness through a veil, it is far more lamentable not to perceive it when no veil intervenes. With the latter kind of imperciency not a few of the dramatic critics are afflicted. But not I. I can recognise great acting when I see it. I recognised it quickly enough in the Strand Theatre last Monday, under the auspices of the Stage Society, when Mr. Swete appeared as John Vockerat in Hauptmann's "Lonely Lives."

The way had been paved for this apocalypse on the previous Friday, when I had seen Mr. Swete as the Reverend Mr. William Collins in Miss Rosina Filippi's clever adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice." I had much admired his creation of the part. It was a creation in more than the technical sense of the word. The Mr. Collins of our dreams—the smug, pedantic, sly, silly Mr. Collins—was incarnate to our eyes. The character had been thought out to its recesses, and was projected with the sure sobriety of perfect humour. I perceived in Mr. Swete a great character-actor. That he was also a great actor I did not perceive till I saw him in that great part, John Vockerat. I say "a great part," meaning that the character is drawn by the author as a highly vitalised and complex human being, and drawn so elaborately as to dominate the whole play. To understand the character postulates far more intelligence than the ordinary actor possesses. To present it in all its many-sidedness, in all its swift transitions from mood to mood, without losing the consistency that underlies it, and to retain for it our sympathies throughout, is a feat that only a great actor could compass. It is a part that has to be thought deeply, to be felt deeply, to be presented with a quickly alternating mastery of comic and tragic method. It is a great part by reason of its great difficulties. And all these difficulties Mr. Swete had overcome. He had fused thought, passion, technique, into one perfect whole, so that we gained a perfect illusion. He did not seem to be acting: he *was* the man. That is a *cliché*, I know; but you must accept it; it is one of those *clichés* which are occasionally indispensable—one of those compliments which cannot be turned otherwise. If there be any other way of expressing the kind of praise I would bestow, I cannot find it. I am so unaccustomed to panegyric that I must needs lisp it in common terms. The task of dramatic criticism has estranged me from any mood but of mild approval or mild disgust. Thus I am rather at a loss when I try to make the welkin ring. Also I feel rather ashamed of myself for the effort. I trust, however, that for you my enthusiasm may derive a certain weight from its rarity, and that its clumsiness may seem a seal to its sincerity. I fear no possible misunderstanding from anyone who, like me, saw Mr. Swete's performance last Monday. Any such person must agree with me that Mr. Swete is on a plane far and away above any of the young actors who permanently grace the metropolis. It is a thousand pities that we cannot keep him with us. Mr. Benson ought to make us a present of him. If Mr. Benson's generosity does not go so far, he ought, at least, to have refrained from giving Mr. Swete an *exeat*. To dangle before our eyes a pearl of such price and not to let us wear it, is an act of wanton unkindness.

Though "Lonely Lives" and "The Bennets" (as Miss Filippi calls her version of "Pride and Prejudice") are as different, superficially, as two plays could be, they have one fundamental point in common: neither

makes any pretence to what is called dramatic action; each depends solely on exposition of human character. That the mere conjunction of various persons may, without leading to "situations," be theatrically effective is a truth which has been gradually dawning on the dullest of us. Nevertheless, Miss Filippi must be given credit for audacity in having collaborated with the shade of the incomparable Miss Jane. No one had dreamed of doing so before her. For Miss Jane was accounted a leisurely subltist, who made her effects little by little, ever so gently and imperceptibly. To preserve aught of those effects for us in the narrow compass of a play was a task that seemed impossible: dramatic congestion would surely produce a mere void. But Miss Filippi perceived, and we perceive now, that the slowness of Miss Jane's stories gives the dramatist of them time to develop the characters quite elaborately, and that the quality of Miss Jane's dialogue is so direct and exact that whole passages of it may cross footlights and be to us not less effective than they are on the printed page. This was a great discovery. But if it had been made by a duffer the result would have been lamentable. Miss Filippi has shown great skill in her selection of the passages which she found in "*Pride and Prejudice*," and in the structure of the frame which she has made for them. That she has not eschewed such technical errors as soliloquies and "over-hearings," matters little enough to me. In a play of modern times such errors distress me. But in a play that harks back to the early part of last century they strike no discord: they seem to belong to the period. What really matters is that Miss Filippi has preserved the atmosphere of the book, and that the characters are sharply and accurately outlined. True, some of the atmosphere evaporated at the Court Theatre, and not all the characters were satisfactory. But that was due to the exigencies of a special *matinée*, and to the difficulty of keeping square pegs out of round holes. Miss Winifred Mayo had not the vivacity and subtlety required for Elizabeth Bennet; Mr. Harcourt Williams had not the dignity for Darcy; Miss Elsie Chester was merely farcical as Lady Catherine; and so forth. But the parts themselves, discernible through the mimes, were very creditable to Miss Filippi. She herself, by the way, was delightful as Mrs. Bennet. To be able to act delightfully in a first production of one's own play seems to me, however, scarcely human—a feat not to be encouraged.

My enthusiasm for Mr. Swete was so long-winded that I am forced to postpone my remarks about Hauptmann.

MAX.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE TRANSVAAL.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Transvaal, 25 February, 1901.

SIR,—I wish to reply to the article under the above heading that appeared in your valuable paper of 19 January. News and the mails travel slowly out here, the railway being constantly broken up by the Boers, and our papers come late—very late sometimes.

That the economic crisis is grave at the present time there can be no doubt, but it is quite certain that no discussion on the future policy of South Africa should be opened up until the war is absolutely over. I mean when guerilla tactics are finally abandoned, and the Boers taught who are the masters in this country. The war has not yet passed from the military stage. We are fighting daily. Take yesterday's casualty list, 4 officers 41 men killed, 5 officers 103 men wounded. For sixteen months I have wandered through the Cape Colony, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal, frequently coming in contact with Boer prisoners, and often with the Dutch Frau on her farm. The race hatred is so bitter that it will never die out. A Dutchwoman told me outright the other day "that there would be a fresh rising later on," and there will unless the strongest measures are taken to prevent it. Your article practically advocates suggesting terms of surrender to hasten the end of the war. Any form of policy advocating this would be fatal. The ignorant Boer would promptly say, "No, they are tired of the war,

and want to make peace—the English are afraid of us." You pass on to discuss—"What is to happen when the Boers do eventually return to their homesteads, or what remains of them?" The Imperial Government could well afford to lend them money to start them, but for security for the loan advanced, we ought to take a portion of their land (their farms are far too large in every instance) and put down English settlers on the land obtained in this way. The Boer will borrow money but he won't pay it back. If every Boer had been asked to pay from £100 to £20 towards the Transvaal War Fund, according to the size of his farm, there would have been no war. The Uitlander has been the milch cow for twenty years—paid for the war, kept the Boer farmers, &c. Whenever Kruger wanted to assist his poor burghers, the Uitlander paid some fresh form of tax. Put the Boer in a position to live, but take landed property as security in every case, and let the Government hold the mortgages, and buy up the present mortgages, which are numerous—do not leave them in present hands as that would certainly mean foreclosure and the ruin of the farmer. You say "Probably there would be no hesitation on our part to let them remain with some of their own forms of government and to allow Dutch landrosts and field cornets to continue to administer the law." Out here this idea is looked upon with horror. All forms of government must be administered by Englishmen everywhere. The field cornet must cease to exist, the district commissioners, who would take their place, should be proved loyal British subjects in every district and as Lord Roberts said in a recent speech "The Boers must be totally disarmed"—not only that, but they must be kept unarmed for all time, and it must be made a very grave offence for them to have arms or ammunition in their possession at any time—if this is not insisted on, and understood thoroughly at home—then the security of the British subject and the future peace of South Africa will again be in danger later on. Many papers talk of the brave Boer—there is no such thing as a brave Boer, they are nearly all cowards born and bred. The brave men, who have been fighting against us, belong to every nationality in Europe, but they were not Boers. Ignorant, treacherous, cowardly and cunning, they will have to be treated with firmness—not kindness, if there is to be future peace and security for the British settler. With large British garrisons, wild beasts will never multiply to any great extent, and the Kaffir question is not at present grave. With fresh railways, irrigation canals, smaller farms all subsidised by the Imperial Government, the future of South Africa looks bright; provided that the Government is to be by British entirely, not assisted by Dutch. When peace has been proclaimed for five years, if things look well, then the Boers might be allowed to have a small say in government matters. The great hatred of the English does not appear to be thoroughly understood at home—it is genuine and intense—the women being far worse than the men. They do not take the trouble to conceal the fact, as I have already stated, that they hope for a future rising some years hence.

H. R. W.

THE WAR OF TARIFFS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Glanrhyd, Swansea Vale, 22 February, 1901.

SIR,—Reprisals by the Russian and Belgian Governments against America, and other such headings, appear in our leading newspapers daily, and I should be more than human if I were not glad to see them. America has, to a great extent, ruined the great tinplate trade of South Wales, and damaged many auxiliary trades which supplied various articles for the tinplate works. Thousands of people are deprived of their livelihood and the Income-tax Commissioners will have to face a greatly decreased Income-tax yield, owing to the idle works and loss of profits. Recently America has done her best to spoil also our iron and steel trades; many steelworks are now idle, and the managers of two of the largest works in Wales, in appealing against the amounts their works are assessed at, disclosed a very serious state of affairs, the result of American competi-

tion. Our American friends are not "assessed" at all, and do not contribute one iota to our taxation.

Here again there will be a great loss to the Income-tax yield, and one wonders if the Chancellor of the Exchequer is quite aware of its extent. Only the other day the Russians by way of retaliation put a duty of 30 per cent. on American imported iron and steel, and this has caused such a panic among the steel-makers at New York that they are making every effort to conciliate the Russians. It would help our revenue very much if we British took a leaf out of the Russian book and made the Americans pay something towards our taxation for the privilege of invading our home markets. Even if we did not press this to an extreme point, at any rate we could then obtain reciprocity treaties. It is incalculable how many present advantages we are throwing away simply because we adhere to certain principles adopted many years ago when circumstances were absolutely different. Is Cobden's idea the only idea which cannot be changed in this world of rapid changes?

The necessities of the country demand a reconstruction of our fiscal system. Why should we continue to heap taxes on every old woman's tea, coming from the enterprise of our sons in Ceylon, and sugar from our colonies? Why not tax foreign tea and foreign sugar, at least double the amount we charge on the supplies from our loyal colonies?

Wheat was a hundred years ago 100s. per quarter; we can now grow it with a small profit at 32s. per quarter, and if a 5s. duty was imposed on foreign flour we could re-start all our corn lands in the Eastern Counties and elsewhere, and stop the influx of men to the towns which is causing so much trouble. A couple of years ago a "corner" in America sent up the price of wheat, I think, to 38s. per quarter, and if we had had our corn lands in cultivation our people would have had cheaper bread under moderate Protection than under one-sided Free-trade. The position for the future has many opportunities of danger, if our Government makes no move.—Yours truly,

ARTHUR GILBERTSON.

[We agree that the trade outlook for this country is not pleasant, and that its unpleasantness is at least partly due to a mistaken fiscal system. But is our correspondent sure that we are suffering from Cobden's idea at all? We imagine that our present trade system is something wholly different from Cobden's idea.—ED. S.R.]

RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND AMERICA.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

P.O. Box 118, Hoboken, N.J.

13 February, 1901.

SIR,—Many writers in your columns have referred to a supposed ill-treatment, especially in 1898, of England's "ancient ally," Spain, but all have taken a superficial view and have been very barren of suggestions in any way effective. Ignoring the root of the matter they have proposed a policy which would have failed to win Spain as a friend and have made in America an enemy full of resource who might become a powerful lever for continental intrigue against England and have made Britain's difficulties after 1898 (notably the African war) her opportunity. A policy which would have won the goodwill of both fighting Powers at that time is very simple and can be easily carried out now. It is as follows:—

On Algeciras Bay, west of Gibraltar, England has built extensive docks at which vessels land supplies for her great fortress. To protect these she refuses to let Spain erect any fortifications on this bay's shores. By thus yielding to England in this matter France is enabled to exact a like concession disastrous to Spain, namely to prohibit the latter's fortifying the passes of the Pyrenees. England thus places Spain between two fires, so to speak, instead of befriending her as an old ally. French influence at Madrid is very strong. The African War has shown that very heavy artillery can be made easily portable so that Spain might ally herself with France in an Anglo-French war and easily move such artillery to a point from which it could quickly destroy the Algeciras Bay docks, a feat almost

equivalent to the capture of the great fortress whose possession Spain bitterly resents.

The effects of the possession of Gibraltar are the same regardless of any necessity for holding it. Such necessities will not be discussed here nor will the possibilities of exchanging Gibraltar for another strong point. If given for Ceuta neither England nor Spain would be under any of the present disadvantages. England's hold upon her would be so great that France would have to allow her the fortification of the Pyrenees passes to keep any influence at Madrid worth having. Britain would then have such a hold upon Morocco as is clearly for her interest. A "Continental Observer" enlarges upon this plan in the "North American Review" for February, 1901.

Had Britain made this exchange in 1898 while still serving America as she did against the Powers, both Spain and America would to-day be her friends. To have taken Spain's part then while keeping Gibraltar would have estranged both without making any friend in Europe.

England's attitude towards America then was clearly for her interest. The latter's assured neutrality in the African War was a powerful curb upon European intervention. Arguments based upon the pro-Boer press, Jingo Senators and amendments to the Canal Treaty are delusive dreams. The pro-Boer crusade soon played itself out. The few Jingo in the Senate dare not do more than talk for the simple reason that a really threatening situation made by them would check business; the reaction against them on this account would be so great as to make their political future hopeless. A complete assurance of this is the cause of our apathy towards them and Englishmen may complacently regard them for the same reason. As for the Canal Treaty the principle of equal privileges for all vessels, American and other, remains intact in spite of the Senate's amendments and the bluster of the Jingo minority.—Very truly,

JAMES H. BATES.

HYMNS ANCIENT AND MODERN.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

14 February, 1901.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 2nd instant, you printed a letter from Mr. Frederic H. Balfour attacking "Hymns Ancient and Modern." May I, as a member of the Church of England, be permitted to reply?

A large part of Mr. Balfour's letter is devoted to the ridicule of the metaphor and poetical imagery of these Hymns. With this, however, I am not greatly concerned, for Mr. Balfour does not apparently regard the metaphor of the Book of the Revelation as Christian. I do not think he will deceive any of your readers who use these Hymns.

A more subtle argument is advanced when he states that terms used to describe the Cross in different Hymns are inconsistent. After quoting several Hymns, Mr. Balfour sums up: "The tree is thus at the same time noble, bitter, and accursed; the Cross is both shameful and faithful; the nails are both cruel, and superlatively sweet. Could sentimental rant go further?" It is with a desire to help other members of the Church, who may have been misled by Mr. Balfour, that I would endeavour to explain the apparent contradiction.

In Our Lord's days crucifixion was the most ignominious form of death. It was the death of a slave, and not of a Roman citizen. It was a felon's death; and the Cross may be said to correspond to the hangman's rope at Tyburn in later English times. And the world crucified the Son of God. "He became obedient unto death; yea (more), the death of the Cross."

But in that Death we have our hope. By that Cross we are saved. The shameful Cross becomes the glorious Cross. The accursed Cross becomes the Holy Cross. We glory in the Cross. "God forbid that I should glory," said S. Paul, "save in the Cross of Christ Jesus." The early Christians used the sign of the Cross in all their actions, and both Jews and Greeks marvelled that they should glory in what was considered their shame.

Is not Mr. Balfour aware of all this, or is his quarrel

not so much with "Hymns Ancient and Modern" as with the Christian Faith?

If Mr. Balfour were not well acquainted with the New Testament, how should he venture to condemn any Hymns as unscriptural?—I am, yours faithfully,

A. J. WHITE.

THE CLOTHING OF THE TROOPS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Villa Guillon, Pau, B.P., France, 30 March, 1901.

SIR,—As there is still a great need of winter clothing for our troops in South Africa, would it not be well to employ prison labour in making the necessary things?

It seems such a great pity that our prison labour is not turned to a better account.

Why should not women do needlework and knitting, and the men learn some craft as in the prisons of Germany and Switzerland, giving them the means of earning their own living on their dismissal.—Yours faithfully,

A. M. JAMESON.

THE ASSOCIATIONS BILL.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The passing of the French Associations Bill is not so significant as it might at first sight seem. It is no doubt true that the French Ministry has won a Parliamentary success. If it were desirable to demonstrate that not only the Ministry but the Republic had at last gathered sufficient strength to hold its own against its enemies, that could not have been done more effectively than by starting a campaign against the religious Orders. The danger and the iniquity were about equally balanced; but at any rate no subject could have been selected which would have placed the various parties more distinctly in battle array against each other. The divisions on the Bill show that M. Waldeck-Rousseau's Cabinet has strengthened its Parliamentary position. But now the great demonstration is over we find that they have not dared to carry out the confiscation originally threatened by the Bill. Yet direct resumption of the property of the Orders by the State was necessary if absolute safeguards were to be taken against the influence of the Orders. With the Orders in existence, and neither they nor their teachings can be suppressed, they will find some means of acquiring and controlling the property they may require. They cannot be prevented without a much more violent persecution than any French Government dare initiate and continue.

Yours, &c.

S. T. K.

"ANGLING FOR BIRDS."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

26 March, 1901.

SIR,—In connexion with the correspondence about catching birds with a hook and line which you have been publishing, it may be interesting to point out that the practice was known to the father of angling, Isaac Walton. I quote from the facsimile of the first edition (1653) of "The Complete Angler," Chapter XI. "There is no better sport than whipping for *Bleaks* in a boat in a summer's evening, with a hazle about five or six foot long, and a line twice the length of the rod. I have heard Sir Henry Wotton say that there be many that in *Italy* will catch *Swallows* so, or especially *Martins* (the bird-angler standing on the top of a steeple to do it, and with a line twice as long as I have spoken of), and let me tell you, scholar, that both *Martins* and *Blekes* be most excellent meat."

Piscator does not seem to disapprove, but one must remember that he, doubtless a humane man for his time, says also that "you are like to stand still on the shoar and see sport" if you fasten a live frog "about the body or wings of a *Goose* or *Duck*, and she chased over a pond" stocked with pike!

Let us hope that the one mode of angling may soon be as extinct as the other.—Your obedient servant,

H. V. R.

REVIEWS.

LITERARY CRITICISM.

"*Ephemerata Critica, or Plain Truths about Current Literature.*" By John Churton Collins. London: Constable. 1901. 7s. 6d.

IN "*Ephemerata Critica*" Mr. Collins has hit hard, he has hit continuously, and in the end he leaves us a little tired of counting the blows, well-aimed and well-delivered as they for the most part are. He has not written for the sake of writing literature, and his essays are a collection of scattered reviews, which must be taken for what they are, and not for what they do not profess to be. They are, he tells us, "partly a protest and partly an experiment." "It is surely a shame and a crime in anyone," he says in his emphatic way, "and more especially in men occupying positions of influence and authority, to assist in the work of corruption, either by deliberately writing bad books or by conniving, as critics, at the production of bad books; and I am very sure it has become a duty, and an imperative duty, to expose and denounce them." The whole book, almost, is a denouncing of what seems to Mr. Collins bad work, and Mr. Collins is unsparing in his language. At times that language is anything but judicial. A word which he is fond of using may be applied with strict justice to some of his own writing: it is "irritating," and it seems to be intentionally irritating. He is reviewing Mr. Saintsbury's "*Short History of English Literature*," and, after a point by point correction of facts and refutation of statements, he concludes as follows: "If our review of this book shall seem unduly harsh, we are sorry, but a more exasperating writer than Professor Saintsbury, with his indifference to all that should be dear to the scholar, the mingled coarseness, triviality and dogmatism of his tone, the audacious nonsense of his generalisations, and the offensive vulgarity of his diction and style—a very well of English defiled—we have never had the misfortune to meet with." Now there is no doubt that all this is quite true, there is no doubt that Mr. Collins is one of the few critics quite competent to prove his assertions, and there is no doubt that he is doing good work in exposing the errors of a writer whose work is likely to be used for purposes of education. But it seems to us that his particular way of putting things not only seems, but is, "unduly harsh." He tells us that he finds Mr. Saintsbury "exasperating." Well, a scholar engaged in "serious, patient, and absolutely impartial criticism," should not allow himself to be exasperated; for impartiality ends when exasperation begins. Mr. Collins looks upon a slip, a mere printer's error, as almost of the nature of a crime. Yet, he himself, on p. 163 prints "*Burnum*" for "*Barnum*," on p. 295 "*poté*" for "*potè*;" the last words of his review of Mr. Saintsbury contain a more serious slip: "the note is the same," he says, "the note of the *Das Gemeine*." Now had Mr. Saintsbury made such a slip Mr. Collins would certainly have said: "It is evident that Mr. Saintsbury, though he goes out of his way to employ two German words where English words would have been quite sufficient, does not even know enough German to be aware that *das*, with a small *d*, means *the*, and that in saying '*the Das Gemeine*' he is really saying '*the The Mob*.'" Would not Mr. Collins rightly resent such an inference, if it were applied to himself? There are pages in the book which seem to betray personal animus, and Mr. Collins should not have allowed us the possibility of mistaking his correction of certain errors and inaccuracies of Mr. Gosse for anything but an exercise in impersonal criticism. When, however, we have made certain reservations, when we have allowed for the fact that a fighter is bound to hit, when we have realised how rarely, after all, Mr. Collins is angry without just cause, it remains for us to commend the learned honesty and the honest learning of a book which fights so many battles on behalf of literature and scholarship.

Mr. Collins is concerned, throughout much of his book, with literature as an educational force, and the most valuable and the most destructive of his reviews are those in which he exposes the errors and shortcomings of scholars. Nothing could be more con-

vincing than his condemnation of Mr. W. M. Rossetti's edition of "Adonais" or his criticism of M. Jusserand's "Literary History of the English People from the Origins to the Renaissance." In his article on "English Literature at the Universities" he is admirably emphatic on the need for reform in matters of literature and philology; and such emphasis, one-sided though it must necessarily be, has undoubted value. It is no part of his purpose, in an argument frankly polemical, to touch on the good work which the Universities have done, on their incalculable and invaluable influence on life and thought. Here, as elsewhere, his business is to attack. His attack is always with heavy artillery, and when he brings his guns to bear on the infinitely small, on Mr. Frank W. Raffety, on Mr. Le Gallienne, he seems to be making much ado about nothing. On the other hand, though it may often be said of his purely literary criticism, as he says of Mr. Sidney Lee's, "It is positive; it is unsympathetic; it is too mechanical," yet there are moments when it is not merely sound, but illuminating. How true is this, for instance, on Plato as a critic! "It would be almost as absurd to go to Plato for typical Greek criticism on poetry as it would be to go to Henry More or the Puritan divines for typical English criticism." The merits and defects of De Quincey have never been summed up so briefly and so adequately as on pp. 203-4, in which precise justice is done to a writer to whom it is singularly difficult to be just. The whole paper on "Landscape in Poetry" is delightful reading, and could only have been written by a very thorough and a very heedful scholar. Not less interesting is the paper on "The Religion of Shakespeare," with its careful analysis of what Shakespeare has really said, its avoidance of tempting extremes, the unquestionable truth of its conclusion. The comparison of Shakespeare's Sonnets with the poems of Catullus to Lesbia is a happy one, and there is much acute comment on Catullus throughout the essay.

Where Mr. Collins is perhaps most emphatic, and most justly emphatic, is in his protest against the levelling up of "the average man," and the acceptance of the average man's hasty impressions on matters of literature and scholarship. "The only sphere in which 'the average man' is entitled to homage is a moral one," he observes, mockingly and with truth. "To say that his standard is never likely to be a high one, either with reference to his own achievements or with reference to what he exacts from others, and to say that systematic substitution of inferior standards for high ones must affect literature and all that is involved in its influence most disastrously, is to say what will be generally acknowledged." "Belles Lettres," he believes, "are sinking deeper and deeper into degradation," because "they are gradually passing out of the hands of their true representatives, and becoming almost the monopoly of their false representatives." Now Mr. Collins shows himself perhaps a little blind to the fact that good literature is being quietly produced at the present day, as it was quietly produced a century ago. An author may write his masterpiece more comfortably if the way is made easy for him, but, if he has the masterpiece in him, he will write his masterpiece. But it is the average man, that being so estimable in "a moral sphere," who suffers from the bad criticism and bad literature of his fellows. Just because he is the average man he needs to be protected against his own limitations, he needs to be kept silent, humble, at least attentive. At present, as every intelligent student of literature knows, but does not say, most of what goes by the name of criticism is a hurried scribbling about books, done on the same lines as the fashion notes in the newspapers, but with less precision. We have protested against Mr. Collins' undue harshness, on occasions when that harshness seems to betray irritation. But how much more needful is it to protest against the undue leniency of most critics of current literature! A book is either good or bad, it is either literature or not literature. If it is bad, if it is not literature, it is the business of the critic to say so, frankly, without exaggeration; just as it is his duty to say how good it is if it is good. He must first judge, and then define, dismissing everything which falls below a certain high standard, and doing patient

justice to whatever reaches that standard. But how many critics are there now writing who have the qualifications for such fine balancing of merit and demerit, how many critics of poetry who know the technique of the art they pronounce upon, how many critics of fiction who can preserve their coolness of head amongst the ardours of an exciting plot or at the contact of a "life-like" character? Many do not know, most do not care: enthusiasm is easy, and it pays; it raises no problems, gives no offence. Mr. Collins apparently likes being severe, there are many to whom it gives pain to give pain; yet these, if they are to do their duty towards literature, must tell bad writers that they write badly. It should be recognised that there is no excuse for the production of anything but good work, that stupidity is more criminal, in art, than any good intention can atone for. "To be misrepresented and misunderstood is the certain fate of a book like this," says Mr. Collins, and such criticism as we are defining will certainly be misrepresented by those whom it exposes, and misunderstood by those whom it does not enlighten. Justice is never popular, but justice is justice.

THE SIEGE OF KUMASSI.

- "The Siege of Kumasi." By Lady Hodgson, wife of Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Gold Coast. London: Pearson. 1901. 21s.
 "West African Studies." By Mary H. Kingsley. Second edition. London: Macmillan. 1901. 7s. 6d.
 "The Relief of Kumasi." By Captain Harold C. J. Biss, West African Frontier Force. London: Methuen. 1901. 6s.

LADY HODGSON emphasises on the title-page of this monstrously expensive book the fact that she is "wife of Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Gold Coast." In our opinion that fact should have been a bar to its publication. That Lady Hodgson should write an account of her very terrible experience was natural enough, if she had the desire to do so: although in our view she is but poorly equipped for an appearance in print. But it was incumbent on Sir Frederic Hodgson to see to it that his wife did not express judgments upon matters which concerned him. If he wished censure to be passed on those acting under him or with him, he should have done it himself. He should not have allowed adverse criticism to appear in a book which must inevitably borrow a certain official weight from his connexion with the writer. We need not occupy ourselves with Lady Hodgson's strictures on Sir James Willcocks for the delay of the relieving force at Prahsu; the reference in the King's speech to that officer's services is a sufficient comment. But the gentleman who was Acting Resident at Kumassi is openly accused (though not by name) of culpable lack of foresight and even of actual dereliction of duty, although he has never been publicly nor so far as we know officially censured. These things do not leave us with a pleasant impression either of Lady Hodgson or of the late Governor of the Gold Coast. There is another thing which we have to say before considering the narrative. The price of this book is a guinea and it is said to have "many illustrations." The object of illustrations is to illustrate and when we meet a photograph of the drawing-room at Government House in the middle of a chapter headed "Dense Forest" and another of the dining-room inserted in an account of the flight from Kumassi, we ask ourselves whether the publisher is playing quite fair. Except for one picture of the fort in time of peace none of the illustrations has the least reference to the siege.

As to the siege itself, here is what we learn. When the Governor and his escort entered Kumassi on 25 March all the chiefs turned out in full dress to do him honour. There had however been "bad fetishes" seen on the road up; but it does not appear whether in Lady Hodgson's opinion rebellion was definitely premeditated. At the big palaver held next day the Governor explained that no King Paramount could be installed in Kumassi

to replace Prempeh; and also that the Ashantis must begin to make annual payment in settlement of the indemnity promised in 1874. Further, he requested that the golden stool should be brought in. The palaver passed off without sign of disaffection. Next day he was called to decide two rival claims to the chief's stool of the Nsuta tribe. The Governor proposed to put in a third party. But the chief with the strongest backing in the tribe refused to give up his claim and withdrew along with his followers. In the meantime the tribal stools were impounded in the fort. Rumours now came in of arms accumulated in the Atchima country and a force of Hausas was sent there. The golden stool was reported to be kept in this neighbourhood. The force was attacked and retired with loss, and so the first shot since 1873 was fired by Ashantis against the British. The attack came from the Kumassi tribe who had refused to attend a general meeting of the Ashanti chiefs and discuss the Governor's proposals. Help was telegraphed for and the roads remained open towards the coast for nearly three weeks—(a fact which seems to prove conclusively that revolt was not previously planned). On 18 April Hausas from Accra came in and expeditions were sent out "for the purpose of dispersing the rebels, destroying their villages and camps." One of these got badly cut up, having fifty-seven casualties. On 25 April the town was attacked, the Basel missionaries driven from their outlying house, and all the loyal natives—upwards of three thousand—came under the fort's walls. They attempted to rush into the fort and the gates were only shut after a severe struggle. The rebels coming into the open were turned back by Maxim fire. On Sunday 29th the fort was severely attacked but the rebels were beaten back, and on the evening of the same day 250 additional Hausas from Lagos fought their way in. Captain Aplin's account (reprinted from a Reuter telegram) of the march up and the bravery of Hausa officers is the most interesting thing in this book. But the force had lost its convoy of stores and had spent most of its ammunition, so added somewhat to the embarrassment. From this day to 8 July no news reached Kumassi from the coast. "Throughout we knew nothing of a relief column." But on 15 May a reinforcement of some 300 men with machine guns from the northern territories came in under Major Morris. It is not clear why on reaching the fort Major Morris, being senior in command, did not at once make a determined effort to cut his way through with part of the troops. It was evident that the supplies, already short before he arrived, could not last the garrison long; and the crowd of friendly natives under the guns of the fort was already threatened with starvation. However, beyond reconnaissances of which Lady Hodgson gives a vague account, nothing was done till affairs grew desperate. On 23 June the march out was undertaken: a small garrison with food for twenty-three days and 150 rounds per man being left in the fort. They were relieved on 15 July when almost at the last gasp from sickness and starvation. In the meantime Major Morris with his force of some 600 men escorting the Governor, Lady Hodgson, the missionaries, and a crowd of carriers, had succeeded in forcing a stockade on the western road and fought their way out followed by the starving friendlies. There ensued a long and painful march to the coast, which is described in detail by Lady Hodgson who is not prone to minimise discomforts. Indeed we are tempted to comparisons between her and the late Miss Mary Kingsley whose "West African Studies," we are glad to see, have just been issued in a new edition with additional chapters of high value and interest. But in truth the thing is impossible: there is no comparison. Nor would it be fair either on Captain Biss or Lady Hodgson to attempt a relative estimate of their contributions to this piece of history. Lady Hodgson gives us merely her personal impressions: Captain Biss follows out in detail the movements of all the detachments into which the relieving force was split up, partly by design partly by action of a very determined enemy. It appears however that the opinion was held in Colonel Willcocks' command that the 600 troops who escorted the Governor from the friendly territory (reached on the

third day out of Kumassi) to the coast was excessive for the purpose and that a part of the force should have been detached to get into touch with the relieving expedition. For the conduct of that expedition no praise can be too high: the list of casualties is formidable and it must be remembered that the troops were raw troops fighting against men of their own colour whose prestige in war stood high. Much of the work had to be done with the bayonet charging dense jungle or stockades like the one shown in Captain Biss' photograph, too heavy for a 7-pounder gun to shatter. The thing is done now and well done. But a study of the story suggests a number of questions. What good purpose was served by the enormously expensive expedition which dethroned Prempeh? or rather, what have the officials put in control of the country by that expedition been doing since? And, secondly, was this bloody and costly war inevitable, or was it brought on by making demands, reasonable perhaps but certainly provocative, on a nation of warlike savages without an adequate display of force to back the order? To put the thing plainly, why was the fort at Kumassi not connected with the Prah by at least one practicable road? and why did Sir F. Hodgson demand payment of an indemnity after this lapse of time without plenty of troops at his back?

REGENERATION.

"The Doctrine of Baptism: Mechanical or Spiritual."
By W. Hay M. H. Aitken. London: Nisbet.
1901. 25.

THIS is one of a cheap series of handbooks addressed frankly to the theological gallery. Canon Aitken, having promised impartiality, throws about phrases such as "sacerdotalists," "ritualistic seminary," "magical charm," "the mechanical theory," "aggression of the party of innovation" (Bishop Phillips and the Tractarians), who however found support in the "supposed loyalty to the Prayer-book" of "many sober Churchmen." This newest of our dignitaries shows no sign of acquaintance with any standard writer on baptismal doctrine except Mozley. Had he read even Bethell or Sadler, he could not have ignored their elaborate refutation of the false antithesis between spiritual and mechanical. For it begs the entire question to assume that Regeneration is an inward revolution in the heart, an emotional change, a new experience, or that "Neo-Anglicans"—imagine St. Austin, Waterland, Bethell and Harold Browne being thus labelled!—assert the unworthy receiver of Baptism to obtain, hypocritically, even a "theoretic blessing." To him it is, Tertullian says, *symbolum mortis*, a self-purchasing, says our Article, of damnation. Where unbelief "*ponit obicem*," to use the language of the Bishops in 1661, to a sacrament's wholesome effect and operation, it becomes a savour unto death. The present question is whether every baptized person can be certain that he has received the New Birth which Nicodemus found so difficult to apprehend. Canon Aitken excites prejudice by supposing a service gabbled by a sceptical priest. Put profligate for sceptical (which raises a separate question) and Canon Aitken will be constrained by Article XXVI. to allow that the minister's unworthiness hinders not the effect of the Sacrament. We are concerned then with the recipient only. Now in practice the question arises not about adults but about christened children grown up in godlessness, who we are here told have certainly been "provisionally" regenerated. Still a controversialist may take the extremest case he pleases. And it is indeed the godless Christian whom the Church is most concerned to treat as a real member of the Body. "Son, give me thy heart." The prodigal among the swine remembers that he is a son, though no more worthy so to be called. Canon Aitken is an experienced missionary. What does he appeal to in the baptized sot or swindler? Does he presume that he has probably never been admitted into God's Family, since baptism "in the vast majority of cases produces no moral or spiritual effect that can be discovered"? Or does he tell him of his Father and his Home, and the ring and the robe which are waiting for him? No—

where in the Acts or Epistles are immoral Christians exhorted to pray for a New Birth, but rather bidden to repent on the express ground that they have been washed, redeemed, saved, consecrated. They are to realise sonship, not seek it. Almighty God, like earthly parents, has "rebellious children" and endures the "provoking of His sons and of His daughters." Why then must Canon Aitken deny the name "child of God" to a bad Christian? He is certain that S. Paul would not have called the incestuous Corinthian brother and *áyios*. Canon Aitken surely has a Bible of his own.

He may say that he admits that the sow in the mire may once have been washed, and the lifeless branch once grafted into the vine. Against the Calvinist misuse of the language of S. John's first Epistle he urges the perfect tenses. But where no heart experiences or moral results followed at all, even temporarily, on Baptism, no New Birth can have taken place. Let us however see how he himself describes the New Birth, or adoption of grace. It places the man in a new and filial relation to God; it gives redemption and liberty to the captive; it restores access to the tree of life; it unstops the flow of grace; it is a re-consecration, it plunges the baptized into a new element, introduces him into a remedial kingdom, places him in a state of present salvation or safety, gives him assurance of pardon, translates him out of a kingdom of darkness, and brings his spirit into personal spiritual contact with the Spirit of God. Now surely this condition of privilege may have been bestowed, yet never from the first taken advantage of. Birth is essentially a change of relations and environment. Vital, not merely federal, it is true; and regeneration certainly implies a communication of life. But this, till man's will begins to co-operate with grace, is only a principle of life, or seed—since Mr. Aitken will not hear of "potentiality" or "germ." The baptized has been brought into contact with the powers of the world to come, and can never afterwards be as though he were unbaptized. He is written in Heaven, though his name be found hereafter blotted out of that book. So Simeon himself taught. But, according to the subjective view, unless he can be certain he has the proper experiences, he will live in doubt whether he belongs to the flock or no. Emotions, and not the Sacrament, are the pledge to assure him. Or, having repented until seventy times seven, he will consider he has had as many new births. Canon Aitken, while allowing that the moment of baptism is normally the moment of salvation, is compelled by his theory to teach that missionary catechumens, and all who are subjected to probation, come to the Font already regenerated, already in the Covenant. If the pre-requisites of the Catechism are too much insisted on, the rite becomes a symbolic surplusage. Baptism indeed is a pledge to assure God of man's faith—the "eloquent," "concentrated," "full" expression of it. But if the faith is already complete, the New Birth, according to our divine, has taken place. Cornelius is, of course, adduced. This Canon Aitken must contest with Augustine, Beveridge and Whately. Contrariwise in holding that S. Paul was not new-born till Ananias baptized him, he must make his peace with Calvin, whom, however, rather than S. Paul, he follows as to the meaning of "sealed."

The perplexities of the extreme Evangelical position culminate, naturally, in the case of infants, for whom is invented the "theological figment" of a provisional regeneration and adoption, which has in after years to be made absolute. Canon Aitken's tepid and feeble defence of infant baptism contains the avowal that he could wish it might be left optional. Such are the inconsistencies in which men of piety are left by a false spiritualism. We have dealt with Canon Aitken's misconceptions somewhat fully, because this series is one of many attempts to undermine the formularies of the Church. We must be unkind enough, in parting, to point out to him that a radical change effected in the faculties of the soul is a Roman, Armenian, and scholastic thesis.

TWO ILLUSTRATORS.

"Characters of Romance." By William Nicholson. London: Heinemann. 1900. £2 2s. net.

"A Dream of Fair Women and Other Poems." By Alfred Lord Tennyson. Selected and illustrated by E. J. Sullivan. London: Grant Richards. 1900.

THE first is a portfolio of colour prints by the author of some excellent posters, an ingenious portrait of the Queen, an amusing alphabet, and other works. The idea of this series is well found, and the selection is personal and witty, owing something perhaps to the taste of Mr. Henley, to whom the drawings are dedicated. The characters are Miss Havisham, the elder Weller, Don Quixote, John Silver, Rochester, Sophia Western, Porthos, Chicot, Munchausen, Miss Fotheringay and Captain Costigan, Madge Wildfire, Mulvaney, Jorrocks (he was perhaps too well fixed already to take up again), Gargantua, Mr. Vanslyperken and Commodore Trunnion. The drawings have what we should call Mr. Nicholson's eminent poster-qualities; that is to say skill in throwing a strikingly devised figure on the field and providing the eye with amusing matter for a glance. After the first moment, or on a second glance, there is little further satisfaction to be gained, because Mr. Nicholson seems to have collected in them all the devices by which veritable drawing may be evaded, and added the blob and the scribble to the flat blot and curly line. It is impossible to define the limits of our forbearance with the flimsiness of means used by a caricature draughtsman so long as he conveys an overpowering sense of character; for a flash of diabolic wit or humorous insight we will put up with a great many makeshifts. But we reserve, perhaps, a tacit condition that the draughtsman shall not take his makeshift means more seriously than it deserves. Mr. Nicholson seems to us to run the risks of the trimmer, he has a spice of the caricaturist who makes for an expression across drawing, but he suggests pretensions to a much more serious art, and does not make them good. He mimics, as a substitute for drawing, the shorthands used by masters of expression, but takes them over as a kind of decoration. There is an air of vital selection, but it will not bear scrutiny. We express, perhaps too harshly, our dissatisfaction with work that strikes us as that of an artist of much gift, but lazy, and too eagerly a dandy. The worst of the series are the vague puddings called "Gargantua," and "Munchausen;" the best is "Krishna Mulvaney," where the head is set down with less bloopery than usual, but the dress goes off into tatters of line. The "Miss Havisham" is a fair sketch, something after the manner of Mr. Whistler's lithographs. "Rozinante" is well conceived, less well his master. The tints are applied in sporadic patches, with the idea, no doubt, of pricking the monochrome into colour by a point here and there. Those plates are most successful in which the hints are slightest.

Mr. E. J. Sullivan is the author of the remarkable illustrations to Carlyle's *Sartor Resartus* of which we had something to say on their appearance. The present volume appeared some little time ago and is now issued on large paper with four of the plates duplicated in photogravure. It says much for the draughtsman's foresight in his manner of drawing and also for the reproductions, that the photogravures are little better than the process-blocks. Mr. Sullivan's extraordinary virtuosity in pen-line reappears in these illustrations, but they are not otherwise so interesting as the *Sartor* series. "Fair Women," very vaguely differentiated in feature one from another, and idyllically rather than dramatically presented, are a poor subject for a draughtsman who is stronger in character-drawing than in beauty-making. The result is a dangerous tendency towards the fashion-plate. Fashions are interesting enough, but to put this element in the front of poetical illustration is unfortunate. Mr. Sullivan's grotesque power revives with the cronies of *The Vision of Sin*; the revulsion from smooth faces even drives him to a revenge in the blotched complexions of these and *S. Simeon Stylites*. We wish a better subject next time to one of the most talented of our illustrators.

NOVELS.

"The Column." By Charles Marriott. London: John Lane. 1901. 6s.

This is a novel which has been spoilt mainly by sheer cleverness; the unhappy fabric of the story is fairly submerged and water-logged by excessive subtleties and accomplishments. But the dominant idea, which is the occult influence of the "column" referred to in the title, is itself a grave mistake. The underlying motive appears to be indicated at a late period of the book in the words of the sculptor Cathcart to the boy his pupil; "It's the pull of the soil—the earth calling—that's what tells; and if you've once heard it, there's no more peace for you." This idea has truth and power, and had the author been able or content to work it out with consistency and soberness, a really good novel might have been the result; but as it is he has made on the whole an unsatisfactory business of it. The "pull of the soil," the passionate attraction of natural simplicity in beauty, is regarded as finding its fullest expression in devotion to Greek art and life; and with intent to depict this passion in the working the author has fashioned a heroine brought up on naturalistic principles by a father possessed with the same Greek devotion. Her mother, we are told, had been a Greek, and a Doric column erected on the cliffs of her Cornish home controls the girl throughout her life with a kind of supernatural and tragic tutelage. Such a heroine is not a convincing figure; apart from the unsatisfactory collocation (harmony and simplicity being the original thesis) of a Doric column with the Cornish crags and sky, and the crude assumption involved in the ingrafting of Periclean associations by means of a modern Hellenic parentage, it is impossible for a young person to move about naturally in English society under the permanent fascination of a marble pillar. But worse comes in the person of the hero, or perhaps he is rather more the villain; he is a "Toynbee Hall" prig of extraordinary luxuriance, possessed of a self-consciousness so lively that the author is forced sometimes to allow it subsidiary dialogue in brackets. This young man Waring is wearisome and nebulous; he exemplifies to its highest degree the greatest technical fault of the book, the exposition at inordinate length of subtleties of motive and character, a refinement of cleverness which swamps and obscures any possible reality in the characters it analyses. For no quite apparent reason these two marry; and in the end, still under the superintendence of the column, the heroine is drowned during a midnight swim, while the man Waring is already falling anew under the fascinations of a feminine fellow-worker at the Settlement, who is as ill-defined as any of the other characters, and more unwholesome. It is only fair to state that the book reveals an unusual though ill-directed analytic ability, and is by no means devoid of the saving grace of humour; while a few of the lesser characters—Cathcart, the boy Johnnie, most of all perhaps that massive Britishwoman his mother—are lifelike and original, when free from the endless analytic subtleties which overburden the book as a whole.

"The Ship's Adventure." By W. Clark Russell. Westminster: Constable. 1901. 6s.

Though Mr. Clark Russell declares incidentally that the voyages of the ocean-tramps, such vessels as Mr. Kipling's "Bolivar," are more amazing to him than all the perils he has drawn in these pages, "The Ship's Adventure," as his readers might feel sure, is another sea-romance of the old style, laid in the palmy times of the clippers. It moves with the accustomed vigour and glow, is replete with stirring and picturesque adventure, and though the heroine may seem on the whole a trifle masculine, considering the part she has to play it is just as well for her. The hero is a manly and capable fellow, and there is a noble Newfoundland dog who is almost more than that. The story is emphatically good reading, and there is no falling-off in the inimitably fresh and vigorous depiction of the high seas by fair and foul weather. The author however has still the habit of occasionally stepping away, so to speak, from the canvas with an air of challenge—"My heroine is a fine young creature deny it if ye can" or so forth—to

the shore going world at large, which is always superfluous and occasionally irritating.

"Strange Happenings." By several Authors. London: Methuen. 1901. 6s.

The result of including in one volume stories by writers of such different character as Grant Allen, F. C. Philips, Clark Russell and W. E. Norris is not convincing. The effect is paragraphic and one story spoils the other. The more famous authors hardly reach their proper level and all the isolated stories worth reading are by the less known writers. "A Day of Solitude Royal" a pathetic little story by Frank Hird comes particularly badly after a forced extravagance called "The Bagman's Penny" by Martin Ross. A book is more than a congeries of writings; to justify its name it should aim at more unity than is covered by so loose a title as "Strange Happenings."

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"Stage Coach and Tavern Days." By Alice Earle. London: Macmillan. 1900. 10s. 6d.

It is not possible to review in the full sense of the word a book of which the value consists in compilation. A review of all the congeries of tavern signs, tavern yarns, and tavern recipes would be almost as long as the book. Its sins, if any, are those of omission, and the first and worst omission is to be found in the title. "Stage Coach and Tavern Days" suggests Tony Weller and his predecessors back to the age of Elizabeth, and the suggestion is stimulating. It is therefore a disappointment to find "neighbor," so spelt, on the first page and to realise that the bulk of the book is concerned not with old but with New England. However viewed as such the retrospect of American coaching days makes a pretty and readable book. The very scound of the old words, "ordinary," "flip," "sack," are enjoyable. The many pictures of hostels, signboards and strange beakers keep up the sentiment, and it is refreshing in days when licences are challenged to know that in Connecticut in 1644 "one sufficient inhabitant" was commanded to "undertake an ordinary." Someone should write a companion book on English taverns and coaches. The author is kind enough to say with infinite condescension that "the pleasures of coaching days have been written by many an English author in forcible and beautiful language." Then she quotes in illustration a most stilted passage from De Quincey.

"Scots Essayists from Stirling to Stevenson." By O. Smeaton. London: Walter Scott. 1s. 6d.

Though Scotland was not remarkable for essayists until long after the publishing of the "Tatler" in England she can claim enough to make an adequate representation of the Scots essay impossible in so slender a volume. Previously to the publishing of the "Mirror" in 1779 there was no Scots school of essayist and isolated geniuses such as Drummond of Hawthornden and Hume were rare and hardly representative. With distinguished essayists subsequent to that date the compiler of these extracts has had difficulties on account of their number. On the whole the collection is as representative as one could hope and we were glad to see the claim of A. K. H. B. fully recognised.

"Puckle's Club." By James Puckle. London and New York: The Chiswick Press. 1900.

This is a reprint of a quaint book published in 1721 by one James Puckle, a notary, famous in his day for the invention of a strange quick-firing gun. The value of the work, the bulk of which is in dialogue form, full of moral sentiments and suggestive of the imitators of Theophrastus, is of no account as literature and in the concluding collection of "Maxims, Advice and Caution" all the good things written down by Mr. James Puckle had previously been said by bigger men. He was evidently a special admirer of Bacon. The introduction, by Austin Dobson, is interesting, and the little head-and-tail-pieces attached to the chapters are original and quaint.

"Trade-Union Law and Cases." By Herman Cohen and George Howell. London: Sweet and Maxwell. 1901. 6s.

This is a book which was very much needed. We have often been surprised the subject has not been treated more recently than in Mr. Davis' book of 1876. True Mr. Howell's book which is the foundation of the present one has long been known, but, as he says, it was not, until this edition, intended as a text-book for the legal profession as well as a general book on labour legislation. Mr. Cohen has now done what was necessary for this purpose; he has brought the cases up to date and considered all that have any bearing on the subject. All the Acts are printed and annotated, and the book is complete in every respect, either for the use of the lawyer, or the trade-union official, or the writer on labour questions.

"Riding and Hunting." By Captain H. Hayes. London: Hurst and Blackett. 1901. 16s.

A thoroughly practical book which covers much ground. It contains almost all the practical advice about managing, harnessing and riding a horse that a hunting man should require. The chapters on racing are intentionally less full and detailed. There are more than two hundred illustrations, mostly from photographs which, thanks to the excellence of the paper, are beautifully reproduced. The author who has written much on this subject had some years ago the interesting experience of teaching the Boers how to break in their horses.

"The Life of Edward White Benson sometime Archbishop of Canterbury." By Arthur Christopher Benson. New edition, abridged. London: Macmillan. 1901. 8s. 6d. net.

We welcome the cheaper re-issue of this most interesting biography. No biography nowadays suffers from abridgment, and this volume will give any educated man an admirable idea of one who was a greater ecclesiastical statesman than was generally realised. Every man or woman of any sort of culture ought to wish to read the life of Archbishop Benson and now, whether he has little money or much money, he will be able to do so.

"The Romance of the South Pole." By Barnett Smith. London: Nelson. 1900.

A popular but conscientious retrospect of all the expeditions made in connexion with explorations of the South Pole. There is much history and fortunately no affectation of picturesqueness in the book. Boys, for whom perhaps the book is intended, are quite capable of extracting their own romance from the material supplied them by such bits of history.

REVIEWS THEOLOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHIC.

"The Preacher's Dictionary." By E. F. Cavalier. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1900.

The title is much too large for the book. It is too large for any book if we accept Ruskin's high idea of the preacher—"whose words are simple even when they are sweetest, who makes the place from which he speaks like a marble rock in the desert, about which the people gather in their thirst." The subjects are arranged alphabetically under generic names, and the system of sub-headings is good and clear, but under the letter A we find only eight subjects—Advent, Almsgiving, Ambition, Anger, Angels, Apostasy, Atheism, Atonement. Limitations are of course necessary, but there are subjects which ought not to have been omitted—e.g. Ascension—though this subject is briefly treated under Resurrection. The book is based on the idea that it is better to preach upon a subject than a text, and aims at giving an accurate definition of each subject treated, a conspectus of Biblical teaching and illustrative extracts. The definitions are marked by care and sense, though it would have added much to their value from a preacher's point of view if more than one Greek equivalent had been given. "Pray" is the translation in the Authorised Version of the Bible of nine Hebrew words and five Greek. "Προσεύχομαι" is the only Greek word given as the equivalent of "to pray." The Hebrew is never given, even for such a word as "Hell," where it has so important a bearing on the meaning. The collection of passages from the Bible has been made as complete as possible and shows sound judgment. We are inclined to agree with the author that this will be found the most useful part of the book. The quotations from the Fathers and modern writers are useful, showing patient work rather than original reading or erudition. To the overworked preacher, who desires to be accurate, and yet has so little time for research, the book will be welcome.

"A Dictionary of the Bible." Edited by James Hastings. Vol. III. Kir-Pleiades. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. 1900. 28s.

The new volume of the Bible dictionary edited by Dr. Hastings contains a great deal of first-rate work. For freshness and mastery of the subject there is nothing in it better than Professor Finlay's article on Paul the Apostle. The Life and Epistles of Peter are fully treated by Mr. Chase, whose articles are admirable specimens of the best kind of New Testament scholarship. Professor Kennedy, of Edinburgh University, has written an important article on Money; we have tested it pretty carefully on several points, and found it both lucid and complete. In all probability this article will be referred to as a standard authority on the subject for a long time to come. Mr. Thatcher has written the best account of Phœnicia that exists in the English language; and those who wish to be saved the trouble of consulting the numerous works of Continental scholars on the subject, will find Professor Bennett's discussion of the Meabite Stone as full as can be had anywhere. A remarkably independent article is contributed by Professor Margoliouth on the Language of the Old Testament; it is of special value as illustrating the relations between Arabic and Hebrew. Some of the details are likely to be disputed by scholars; but the general treatment is stimulating, and much information is given

which cannot be found in the ordinary text-books. Dr. Driver's article on Law, and Dr. Stanton's on the New Testament Canon deserve special mention; both of them, as may be expected, are full, sober and clear. In a work which comes from so many hands a certain inequality of merit is inevitable. There is a want of freshness in some of the articles, and too much traversing of familiar ground without contributing anything new. But the general standard of excellence must be placed exceedingly high; it is as noticeable in the minor articles as much as in the larger ones; and the entire work fairly represents the best English scholarship. It is a hopeful and significant fact that men of such various ecclesiastical positions can co-operate in an undertaking of this kind. While disputes and differences are raging between the Churches, the scientific and religious study of the Bible is going on; and who knows whether the scholars are not doing more to promote unity than anyone else?

"Old Testament Theology." Vol. II. The Deuteronomic Reformation. By Archibald Duff. London: Black. 1900. 10s.

If only the author would drop his grotesque translations of Hebrew documents, which take up the greater part of his book, we would try and attend to what he has to say. He has thought out things for himself, and he makes a painful effort to put them vividly; but his manner is so irritating that one can hardly read the book with patience. He aims at tracing the history and ideas which led up to the reforms of Josiah and the publication of Deuteronomy; a more skilful and workman-like scholar could have done this without printing at full length the Jahvist and Elohist documents from Genesis to Kings. We have found one interesting theory in Dr. Duff's exposition, viz. that the idea of the centralisation of worship, which is characteristic of Deuteronomy, is to be placed as early as the eighth century, and that the book came originally from Shechem, "the central sanctuary of the Elohist." In this way he accounts for the fact that Deuteronomy alludes to Shechem as a great sanctuary, but does not so much as hint at Zion. He might have worked this out properly. As it is, we cannot find any careful or intelligible argument in the book at all.

"The Story of Dr. Pusey's Life." By the Author of "Charles Lowder." London: Longmans. 1900. 7s. 6d. net.

A short biography of Dr. Pusey was much needed; for the four ponderous volumes of the "Life of Dr. Pusey" were from their mere size calculated to deter the ordinary reader. This book, too, claims to be something more than an abridgment of the larger "Life;" the author tells us that her aim throughout has been to work from the very full MS. material placed in her hands by Dr. Pusey's daughter, and to depend only occasionally and rarely on the materials given in Dr. Liddon's work. It appears, however, that she has made fuller use of it than she has been conscious of; it is quoted on almost every page of the first six chapters; after that it is referred to somewhat more sparingly, but still frequently, till ch. xix.; and then constantly till ch. xxvii. And the author seems to be dependent on it even when she does not expressly say so; in her references to Dr. Pusey's books she mostly quotes what Dr. Liddon did, while on p. 453 a passage is quoted as coming from the opening part of the "Eirenicon, Part III.," which is in fact part of the concluding paragraph of that work; the explanation of the mistake is found by referring to Vol. IV., p. 184, of Dr. Liddon's Life, where the whole paragraph is reprinted; the author has misread the footnote at the bottom of the page, which is the reference to another quotation, and so has cited the passage as coming from pp. 39-40 of the work instead of pp. 341-343. Should the work run into a second edition we trust she will in fairness re-write the preface and acknowledge her debt to the larger work. The book is a tolerable biography, not without faults; it is written in a spirit of unswerving and uncritical admiration; the author sees no faults, no mistakes in her hero; there is hardly any shading to her portrait. As in most modern biographies, there are too many extracts from letters; it is an easy task to piece together a number of letters with a line or two of connexion, and then take credit for "letting the principal actor tell the story in his own words." A good deal of quite trivial domestic detail is inserted which might have been spared us, for though precious and almost sacred to members of the family, these minutiae are wearisome to others. Some bad misprints have crept in. Lord Coleridge is made to talk of fear of Rome as "*Romaphobia*" (p. 318), and Dr. Pusey himself made to write "*post equitum sedet atra cura*" (p. 473).

As we read the book we are conscious how many things have altered since Dr. Pusey's day; he seems far removed from us; few Divinity professors now would feel alarmed at things which alarmed him, or would defend the positions he defended with quite the same weapons; yet no one can read the story of his life without a feeling of awe; awe at his marvellous energy, courage, consistency, self-discipline, devotion; awe most of all at the record of a long life not one hour of which seems to have been passed out of the conscious presence of God. The book shows too that the movement, of which Pusey was the main pillar, was by no means a narrow merely ecclesiastical departure. Witness the names of the laymen who signed the undertaking as to the first Anglican sisterhood opened on the Wednesday after Easter, 26 March, 1845.

FRENCH LITERATURE.

Le Droit d'être Mère. By Paul Bru. Paris: Flammarion. 1901. 3f. 50c.

If M. Paul Bru has not chosen a pleasant theme he is certainly to be congratulated on the delicate manner in which he has dealt with it. His scene is a hospital, and his patients are women who are about to become mothers; but the purpose of the book is to call attention to the destitution and miseries that overtake the women when once they have left the hospital. And they are not bad women, only weak; and, in nine cases out of ten, they have been betrayed and afterwards abandoned. The heroine of the story, a fine character, eventually becomes a nurse. Her love affair with the house surgeon is charmingly narrated: when he falls ill with diphtheria she nurses him; he recovers, but she catches the illness, and dies. At no time is the book offensive or crude; it contains many a fine and magnanimous sentiment, it does infinite credit to the chivalry and humanity of the author.

Les Fleurs d'Or. By Champol. Paris: Plon. 1901. 3f. 50c.

So packed with "incident" is Champol's last exhilarating novel that it is impossible to do it justice in the limited space we have at our disposal. The scene is laid at Toulouse; the hero, an officer in the army, almost becomes the victim of an unscrupulous woman, the remaining characters are a sharp doctor and the two charming daughters of a bourgeois family. There is no end of adventure and confusion. Several love affairs take place, as well as a murder. A fancy dress ball provides an exciting development: a death and a suicide follow. But all ends happily and naturally, after the manner of Champol's earlier novels. This one, however, is more competently constructed than its predecessors; it is also admirably written.

Napoleon Prisonnier. By Paul Frémeaux. Paris: Flammarion. 1901. 3f. 50c.

Were the most ordinary Frenchman—Charles Boudin charcutier, for instance—coolly to publish his opinion of Napoleon, his book would probably sell faster than his "jambon de York" and galantine. No one would inquire what documents he had consulted, or discovered; no one would wonder why he had abandoned his knife for a pen. Parisians would read Boudin on Napoleon: for Parisians would read anything that had to do with that great name. Memoirs have been published, simply in order to state that a deceased relative of the author's once saw Napoleon at the Opera and that, even forty years later, "the spectacle still haunted him." How many hundreds of glimpses, laboriously and lengthily described, have we had of Josephine: also at the Opera, more usually after the divorce; and how often have we been harrowed by a recital of the griefs experienced in after years by the deposed Queen! Still, we, ourselves, have overlooked the mediocrity of most of these works. We would even read Boudin; also, review him. We have found ourselves staring raptly at highly coloured plates—more highly coloured than those in a "Christmas number"—yet never laughed at their portrayal of a ceremony in which Josephine looked positively plain, or in which the attendants at the christening of the King of Rome were out of drawing. These plates have fascinated us, and we have dreamt over them; we have also been under the spell of a music-hall "character vocalist" who (and not from emotion) dropped his aitches when he sang of the prisoner on S. Helena—"On S. 'Elena" still "haunts" us as a refrain. And we have been dreaming again, have been fascinated once more, ever since we took up M. Frémeaux's volume. In it, however, the author does not express unimportant opinions; he has discovered documents—original documents—that take the form of a number of notes made by Dr. Stokoe, after he succeeded the Irish doctor, O'Meara, as Napoleon's physician. And they are remarkable notes: if we are to believe them, they point out that Dr. Stokoe was persecuted by Hudson Lowe and prevented by him from properly treating Napoleon. Most of the book, in fact, is an attack upon the Governor of S. Helena who, with Sir Robert Plampin, had Dr. Stokoe court-martialed on the charge of disobeying orders, and, also, of conspiring with Napoleon. The doctor was engaged on the "Conqueror" (under the command of Sir Robert Plampin) as surgeon; and, from 1817 to 1821, was anchored at S. Helena. After some difficulty he managed to meet Bonaparte, who took an immediate fancy to him. They chatted together; and Napoleon complained of Hudson Lowe's severity, of the unhealthiness of his isolation. He had expected more generosity, more mercy, from the English; and, even in the beginning, he declared that the climate of S. Helena would kill him. Both Hudson Lowe and Sir Robert Plampin undoubtedly suspected Dr. Stokoe; but it would be terrible to believe that they kept him back when Napoleon was ill, so that he arrived twelve hours late; and that they also bullied and threatened him. Invariably, they refused to accept his assurance that the prisoner's life was in danger. Day by day, their treatment of Dr. Stokoe became severer; eventually, in spite of his powerful defence, they obtained his dismissal from the "Conqueror." Still, we are inclined to think that Dr.

Stokoe utterly misjudged Hudson Lowe. The Governor was not a sympathetic man, but he was certainly not a scoundrel. He was mad with the fear that Napoleon might escape; he was narrow-minded, obstinate, rough also. His "accomplice," Sir Robert Plampin, shared the same fear; yet both of them—even M. Frémeaux himself admits it—did their utmost to obtain the finest medical attendance for Bonaparte when his end drew near. Occasionally, we get "glimpses" of Napoleon: learn that he was polite and amiable with Dr. Stokoe, but that his temper rose whenever he mentioned the Governor. And these "glimpses" are always stirring, always fascinating—so that we return to them, and wish there were more of them.

Péché Caché. By Paul Perret. Paris: Ollendorff. 1901. 3f. 50c.

A villainous old uncle takes infamous advantage of his niece; then, dying, leaves her half his enormous fortune on the condition that she marries her cousin, who is to receive the other half. He hated his nephew; and this is his revenge. The nephew is to have his "leavings"—so does the author most inelegantly term the niece—and both the nephew and the niece are thus to be burdened with an odious secret throughout life. The niece confesses; but the nephew consoles her. And they marry, but meet only at meals. And they continue to keep apart, yet gradually begin to love one another. And they

(Continued on page 448.)

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Nos Ridicules. By Jenny Thénard. Paris: Ollendorff. 1901. 3f. 50.

The author's aim is to make fun of ridiculous people; but, unfortunately, she herself is ridiculous. We are not entertained by her cheap cynicism; we are convinced that she has never enjoyed the privilege of meeting the people she pokes fun at. She reminds us of a lady we once encountered at the Salon on Varnishing Day who, in order to obtain "good copy," aggressively pursued the "celebrities" round the rooms in order to hear what they had to say. Perhaps she is the same person; we notice that she has a paper on the Vernissage. Her style, like her taste, is execrable.

The *Revue des Deux Mondes* for 1 April is a brilliant number. M. Edouard Rod continues his story "Mademoiselle Annette." M. de Vogüé criticises with gentle irony three volumes which have recently appeared on the characteristics of modern England. He adroitly exposes the fallacies which often underlie the most plausible generalisations and shows that the tendencies attributed to English society of to-day might with equal justice be indicated as marks of French society in the eighteenth century and shows that the rules enunciated admit of so many exceptions as to be worth little. M. de Bellessort charms us with another instalment on Japan. M. Pinon has an interesting study of Menelik and modern Abyssinia and M. Pierre de Ségur treats of Christopher Bernard, that redoubtable Bishop of Munster in the seventeenth century, whose exploits would have been scandalous to the Church three centuries earlier. We must not omit to notice M. Etienne Launy's passionate plea for the better education of Frenchwomen to enable them to fight for justice and religion in the strife against a persecuting policy of the State.

Revue de Paris. 1 Avril. 2f. 50c.

Sir Charles Dilke has a short and not particularly instructive article on English Army Reform. He declares that our military system is costlier than any other, but does not quarrel with it much on that account. The cost, he imagines, will increase; but so long as military expenses do not interfere with our naval expenses, Sir Charles Dilke will not protest. He sees no serious war on the horizon, and no need or likelihood of general conscription for the present. In fact, he has little that is either original or important to say.

Revue des Revues. 1 Avril. 1f. 30c.

According to M. Ernest Charles, bad French is spoken in the Palais Bourbon. He quotes numerous examples; but, strangely enough, M. Lasies and other disorderly deputies are not responsible for any of them. So may we say that the author of this article has not done his work thoroughly. M. Georges Pellissier writes intelligently about the latest novels; the majority of the caricatures portray the unrest and despair of Lord Kitchener.

The following volumes will be noticed shortly: "Du Transvaal à l'Alaska" (Plon); "La Politique de la France en Afrique" (Plon); "Suivons—Le!" (Flammarion); "La Jeunesse d'une Marquise" (Calmann Lévy); "Noblesse Américaine" (Ollendorff).

For This Week's Books see page 450.

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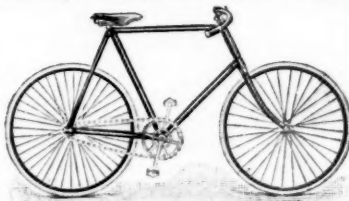
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EXPLORATION COMPANY.

THE COMPANY'S INVESTMENTS.

THE ordinary annual general meeting of the Exploration Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. Harry Mosenthal (chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. J. H. M. Shaw) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report, the Chairman said: I regret the absence of two of our directors—Lord Farquhar, who is unavoidably prevented from attending at the last moment, and Mr. Maguire, who is abroad. Permit me, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, to express the great regret of your directors that they cannot, as on every previous occasion since the company came into existence, congratulate you upon the result of the past year's operations. The profits realised in the course of the year amount to £106,864 15s. 11d.; but we do not feel justified in applying this profit to the payment of a dividend, owing to the depreciation in the value of our assets, which, as stated in the report, amounts to £310,652 5s. 5d. Of this depreciation £129,235 17s. 5d. has been entirely written off in the accounts to the debit of reserve account. It would not be correct to say that this sum is a total absolutely ascertained loss; but we are not sanguine that any substantial portion thereof will be recovered. The balance of the depreciation, amounting to £181,416 7s., which, we hope, may be regarded as temporary, has been provided for by the creation of a contingency account, to which has been transferred the amount standing to credit of profit and loss—namely, £160,652 4s. 5d.—and, in addition, the sum of £20,764 2s. 7d. taken from the reserve, which, together with the £129,835 17s. 5d. applied to writing down permanent depreciation, provides for the total amount of £310,652 4s. 5d. As an alternative course, we might have passed the dividend, and relied upon the reserve of £550,348 7s. 7d. as being more than sufficient to provide for the total amount of depreciation; but we considered it in the interests of the shareholders—and your directors are amongst the largest shareholders—to deal with the matter in a frank and drastic spirit, and to write off at once what we believe to be practically an ascertained loss, and to apply the undivided profits and £20,764 2s. 7d. of the reserve to meet the temporary depreciation, in the hope and expectation that a considerable portion thereof will find its way back to the account from which it came, and thereby become available again as profits. I have to-day to take you over wider ground than usual. In explanation of the reduced profit to-day, as compared with previous years, I think I may say, without fear of contradiction, that, owing to the unfortunate condition of affairs in South Africa, and the consequent stagnation which has put a stop to the development of new undertakings, the past year has not been an easy one in which to make profits. The depreciation, to meet which contingency account has been created, is due mainly to the fall in price of shares of electric traction and tramway investments in Paris. When addressing you last year I expressed great expectations with regard to this business. These expectations have not yet been realised; but, in the opinion of the board, the decline in prices is due largely to the general depression in the value of all tramway and electrical industrial concerns in Paris, and not to any inherent defects in the particular business in which we are interested, and from which we have derived substantial profits in the past. We have always believed in our holdings as sound industrial undertakings, and we believe so still; but competent management is essential to entire success, and I regret to say that until recently this has left much to be desired. Directly this fact became apparent to us steps were taken to correct mistakes which had been made. Much has already been accomplished to ensure efficient management, and the changed conditions which already obtain are reflected in the increased price of the shares, which show a considerable appreciation from the lowest prices ruling before these changes were effected. I have not, for some time past, been able to give much assistance in bringing about this better condition of affairs, and I have pleasure in stating that it is greatly due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Lukach that the position to-day has so much improved that I am able to express such hopeful views with regard to the future. Whilst I regret that the result of the past year's operations has not been more satisfactory, I again wish to point out to you—as I have pointed out on previous occasions—that the profits of an undertaking like ours must fluctuate, and should only be calculated over a number of years; therefore, I feel some satisfaction in reminding you that the average distribution of dividends since the formation of the company on June 19, 1896, until the end of the year under review is slightly over 11 per cent. per annum, which represents a sum of £583,706; and, recent disappointment notwithstanding, we have every confidence in the earning power of the company, and in its future prosperity. Having reviewed the balance-sheet the Chairman said: I crave your attention for a few moments to a matter, personal to myself, which concerns the company. As many of you are aware, I became chairman of the company, and undertook the duties connected therewith, at the unanimous request of my colleagues, who considered that by so doing I could render the company a service—an opinion endorsed at various times by you. For that reason, and for no other, I accepted the position, and have performed my duties to the best of my ability. Subject to your approval, I would continue to do so, were it not that my health compels me, in justice to you as well as to myself, to resign the chairmanship of the company. Three years ago, and repeatedly since then, my doctors urged me to relinquish duties which entail so much extra work and a strain which my health was not strong enough to bear, and their advice is now so urgent that I can no longer disregard it. This is to me most painful, as I have worked for you with pleasure and pride; but no other course is open to me, as your interests require constant and untiring attention, to which I am no longer equal. As a director, I hope still to render service to the company. Mr. Stanhope has, at the unanimous request of the board,

agreed to accept the chairmanship of the company. He is thoroughly qualified, owing to his varied experience both at home and abroad, in the very kind of business in which we are engaged, and the shareholders and your directors are to be congratulated upon his acceptance of the appointment. I trust that he will address you next year under much more favourable circumstances. No reference was made to my resignation in the report, as I desired to make the communication to you personally. Again I beg to thank you for the many marks of confidence and goodwill I have received at your hands, and to add to this my appreciation of the friendly relations which unite me to my colleagues. I now beg to move that the report and accounts now submitted be approved and adopted.

Mr. Francis A. Lucas, M.P., seconded the motion, and said he would like, on behalf of himself and his other colleagues on the board, to express the great regret they felt at losing Mr. Mosenthal as chairman. He had worked for the company ever since its formation as if the business was his own, and he had given, he (Mr. Lucas) was afraid, too much time and attention to it, with the result that his health had been somewhat impaired. He was sure the hope of the directors was that the rest, to which he was well entitled, would soon bring him to perfect health again.

Mr. Gardiner drew attention to the fact that the holdings of the company in the Paris Traction and Tramways Companies amounted to nearly two-fifths of the entire capital, and if they added the holdings of the London Central Railway, the London Electric Traction, and the El Oro Company, they had, together, no less than three-fifths of the entire capital of the company. He should like to ask what it was that tempted the board into putting so large a proportion of the company's capital into so few ventures. The Exploration Company was a powerful concern, and he should have thought that the managing director would have been able to place himself in close touch with the most prominent interests in Paris, and would have been able to form such a judgment as would have enabled him to foresee the collapse that had taken place in the value of the Traction shares. He also thought that, by taking a small amount from the reserve, the directors might have paid them, at any rate, a five per cent. dividend. In his opinion, there was too great a tendency nowadays on the part of directors of companies like theirs to build up huge reserve funds.

The Chairman, in reply, said: With regard to the price of the Paris Traction shares, he might say that the Exploration Company had been largely interested in that traction company since its formation, and had not done very badly in it; for the total profits since its connection with it had been £175,000 from the Traction Company alone. He believed the highest price at which the Traction shares stood last summer was 320fr. to 330fr. He need not tell them that the directors sold some shares, and he might say, also, both on behalf of the company and personally as a holder of those shares, that he regretted they did not sell more. The simple reason why they did not take profits at that time was that the directors committed an error of judgment. With regard to Mr. Gardiner's question, he admitted at once that their investment in the Paris Traction Company was much larger than it ought to have been, or than it would have been, under ordinary circumstances. The directors could not believe that Electric Traction, which when properly managed had been successful all over the world, would not be successful in Paris. With regard to the holdings in the Central London Railway and Electric Traction in London, he thought that they were not so large as he should like to see them, because they had already shown considerable profit. With regard to the El Oro Mining and Railway Company, he was not a plunger; but he wished that not merely one-tenth or one-eighth of the money of the Exploration Company, but one-half, or, if it were permissible, the whole, were placed in that mining company, because he was convinced that a better investment did not exist. As a mining proposition he knew of nothing better. With regard to Mr. Gardiner's suggestion as to paying a dividend, he said at once frankly that he could not do it, because the losses which they called permanent depreciation would have eaten up practically the whole of their profits, and they could not deal with the reserve fund before they dealt with the profit credited to profit and loss. They had dealt with the matter in the way they had in the hope of an earlier return to a dividend than would otherwise have been possible. They hoped that the contingency account would be more than sufficient for its purpose, and that a portion of it would find its way back to profit and loss. If it did that, that portion would be again available for dividends. He assured them that he had strong sympathy with those shareholders who felt the want of the dividend; but if they looked at the whole history of the Exploration Company, and if they remembered the old Exploration Company, which gave them enormous dividends on a maximum capital of £300,000, he thought they would not be too severe if the directors now, for one year, failed to give them a dividend, which they hoped to more than make up in succeeding years.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Lucas, M.P., Mr. J. Rochfort Maguire and Mr. G. D. Smith were re-elected directors of the company.

Mr. Gardiner moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and the secretary.

Major Ricarde-Seaver, in seconding the resolution, said that the directors had frankly admitted that they had made an error of judgment; but they had taken radical measures to remedy the mistake, and he thoroughly believed that the company would soon again be in a dividend-paying position.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman, in responding, assured the shareholders that he had the interests of the company more at heart even than his own. In resigning the chairmanship he did not intend to separate himself from the company. Before he became chairman he had devoted a large amount of time to the service of the company, and he intended to do so now.

The proceedings then terminated.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE.

MR. PRYOR ON THE SATISFACTORY PROGRESS OF THE SOCIETY.

THE annual general meeting of the Sun Life Assurance Society was held on Wednesday at the chief office, 63 Threadneedle Street, E.C., Mr. Marlborough Robert Pryor (chairman of the society) presiding.

Mr. E. Linnell (secretary and general manager) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, remarked that the accounts presented were most satisfactory. The increase in the funds was nearly £385,000, which was a larger amount than had accrued on the ordinary working of the business in any year before. The rate of interest both on the proprietors' fund and the life assurance fund was well maintained, and he need hardly say that the actual value of those funds on December 31 was in excess of their book value, notwithstanding the great depreciation which many classes of securities underwent in the winter, and from which some of them had since materially recovered. The new business was also extremely satisfactory. It showed a very considerable increase, nearly £72,000, over that of last year, while many of their friendly rivals had to lament a rather material decrease, the year not having been favourable for life assurance. On the other hand, the mortality had been very light, only about 85 per cent. of what had been expected, and this was satisfactory, because the mortality in the previous year was so extremely light that they could hardly have expected another similar year to follow. The annuity business went on as usual, and the accident and general business was very satisfactory. He did not know that he would say it was very satisfactory if the workmen's compensation business at current rates had shown any considerable increase, but it had not. The bulk of the business in the accident and general section was that of leasehold insurance, and carried on in its present lines this business must show a very considerable, though long deferred, profit to the office. With the society's efficient staff it only remained for the directors to see that the various forms of assurance offered were what the public demanded. During the past year they had devoted special attention to a very large section of the community—namely, those whose accumulated wealth might not be very considerable, but who were in the enjoyment of fair incomes, and who therefore specially required assurance, as the loss of their lives meant the loss of their incomes on which others depended. To meet the wants of this class they had put forward a scheme of monthly premiums. They could not do as Chancellors of the Exchequer had done, and burden that section of the community less than others. They were compelled to make each section of the society's business carry its own burden, but they charged just that additional loading which they thought would cover as nearly as possible the greater cost of collecting the premiums monthly and of carrying on the business. However, lest they charged too much, they gave the assured the option at any time to change from monthly to quarterly, half-yearly, or annual premiums, the saving effected ensuring entirely to the benefit of the assured under the scheme. When dealing with the question of popularising life assurance, they were naturally brought face to face with the obstacles in the way of the public wishing to effect insurances, and one obstacle was medical examination. Although the directors thought that in inviting anyone to undergo medical examination the society were, as it were, presenting him with a guinea, yet the public did not see the matter in that light. Some appreciated medical examination, but in the minds of many there was a real prejudice to it. Having explained the system by which the society granted policies without medical examination, he stated that they had resolved to drop the suicide clause in their policies. When they issued these non-medical policies it was quite obvious that with the restriction which they propose of a reduced payment in the first year or two, this so-called suicide clause in policies becomes nugatory. That opened up the question whether there was any real sense in it at all. A great many of the offices had come to the conclusion that there was not, and on consideration they had joined in that conclusion. Suicide was the result of a morbid mental state, not differing in kind from other morbid mental or bodily states any more than any one disease differs from any other. There was no reason why they should not accept death from suicide any more than why they should accept death from small-pox. On the other hand, it might be logical to do that, because they believe that people can avoid death from small-pox, whereas they do not believe that any person can, however wise, avoid the failure of his own intellect. If they were to try to put in a small-pox clause they would be ridiculed. The position would be wholly untenable, and he believed it was so in regard to the suicide clause. In resolving to drop it he thought they would eliminate what cannot but be looked upon as a standing insult to our assured. It could not matter very much, because the total effect of suicide on the mortality of these kingdoms was so trivial that it might be wholly neglected from a life-assurance standpoint. The directors in the past had been in the habit of dividing half-yearly a small dividend due to the interest on the proprietors' fund. Some twelve years ago they slightly modified this, and added to it 1 per cent. on the then paid-up capital under their new Act, making 5 per cent. on that paid-up capital, the 1 per cent. being added in anticipation of future bonus profits. This never pleased him very much, though it was a step towards the equalisation of dividends. Assuming that the proprietors would all prefer their dividend to be equalised, he feared that none of them would prefer to give up the bonus which would accrue to them out of the profits of the quinquennium ending on December 31 next. This bonus they would expect to receive in the summer of 1902. When, however, it came to the bonus which they would begin to earn on January 1, 1902, and which would accrue to be divided as on December 31, 1905, it was quite a different thing. No one could possibly be wronged if it were now determined that that bonus should be converted into an annuity for five years, upon a 3 per cent. basis of interest, and paid in ten half-yearly instalments along with the dividend arising out of interest during the quinquennium beginning on January 1, 1907, and ending on December 31, 1911. That, he thought, would obviously be an acceptable arrangement to everyone. They would ask the proprietors present for an expression of their opinion as to the suggested change, and they further proposed to distribute with the report of the meeting a letter on the subject to each proprietor. This he would fill up and return to the office. Every proprietor would, therefore, have the opportunity of expressing his opinion whether he wished to have the change made or not.

Mr. Charles A. Scott-Murray (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman said he would next ask the meeting to express an opinion as to whether it was considered that the change to which he had alluded should be made, namely, that the bonus accruing on December 31, 1905, should be distributed in equal half-yearly amounts and not paid in a lump. The proposition was unanimously assented to.

On the motion of Mr. J. G. Priestley, seconded by Mr. J. Robinson, Mr. John Gane, F.C.A., was elected the proprietors' auditor.

Mr. J. Gibson proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, managers, and staff.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. A. Greig and agreed to, and the Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment.

The proceedings then terminated.

MANSU (WASSAU) GOLD MINES.

A SUCCESSFUL WORKING POLICY.

THE first general (statutory) meeting of the members of the Mansu (Wassau) Gold Mines, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. F. G. Dawson, J.P.

The Secretary (Mr. Arthur B. Dawson) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman regretted exceedingly that their excellent chairman, Mr. George Macdonald, was not present. He was in the Gold Coast Colony. From the very initiation of the little company, four months ago, he thought he might fairly say they had been held in high esteem. They had evidence of that not only from personal intercourse, but also from the many kindly and appreciative things which had been said about the company in the press. So far as the capital was concerned they were a small company. It amounted only to £25,000; but so far as the money-making potentialities of the company are concerned, he did not hesitate to say they were a great company. They had got their titles put into proper order, and everything necessary to be done in regard to registration, the payment of stamp duties, and the filing of the notices at Cape Coast Castle, had been done, and well done too, by their friend Mr. Pettengill, who went out to the Coast for that specific purpose. Their next consideration was to get a good superintendent engineer, and that caused considerable anxiety. Fortune favoured them; one of the directors came in contact with Mr. F. J. Holman, a gentleman who has had vast experience, and who, although between 50 and 60 years of age, was as full of energy, and he should say of wisdom, as they could possibly find in an engineer. Mr. Holman, Mr. Funnell, Mr. Terry (a young engineer of very high promise, who has taken first-class honours in assaying and other branches of mining study), and three sturdy Cornishmen constitute the English staff out there at the present moment. One great point about the properties is their accessibility. He learned from Mr. Pettengill that the Subil property is forty minutes only from the railway at Mansu, and the Supome, Faossikam, and Subil properties lie just beyond, and are distant six hours' walk only from the Mansu Railway. Good paths and roads were already being cut by the kings and chiefs there, and the boundaries were being put in; in fact, everything was being done as well and as expeditiously as it possibly could be done. Their object had been, and will be, to get the properties developed and paying with all speed. With properties covering such an area as theirs—something in the neighbourhood of 7,260 acres, or a little over 11 square miles—a very large working capital was needed for their proper development. Their policy was to get others to supply the working capital on fair terms. The position so far was this: they had sold 360 acres of ground for £50,000 to a company which, he thought, was in course of issue now—he meant the Subil Company. That 360 acres constituted just one-twentieth part of their property. Their solicitors, Messrs. Templer Down and Miller, were now carrying on a negotiation in another quarter for the sale of 350 acres more, for a further sum of £50,000, of which £10,000 will be in cash and £40,000 in fully-paid shares. In both of these cases, provision was made for a working capital of £40,000. Each of these sub-companies would have a clearly-specified length of reef, and, of course, they, as the parent company, maintain a right of way across the properties. They have also made some profit from the Akoko Gold Mines—a very excellent property, which was floated some three or four weeks ago. Arrangements of a friendly character were made, whereby the Akoko Gold Mines paid the Mansu Company £22,500 in fully-paid shares for certain services rendered; and he thought he was right in saying that of that £22,500 they will have from £15,000 to £17,000 net in the coffers of the company. If they carry that policy to its legitimate issue, it meant a working capital for the whole of the properties of something like £800,000—it means an aggregate of something like £1,000,000 in cash and shares in the coffers of the Mansu Company. If they were enabled to carry out to its legitimate issue the policy which they had already initiated with such favourable results, they would have a company whose shares, although valuable now, will be far more valuable than had up to the present moment been conceived.

Mr. MacCulloch said that the new company, to which Mr. Dawson had referred, and which was called on the market the "Baby" Subil, was floated—that was to say, that a much larger number of shares were applied for than the necessary working capital. This assured the Mansu Company of its £50,000 in cash and shares.

The Chairman said that this was exceedingly good news. Although the directors had not received Mr. Holman's report on the properties, sufficient time not having yet elapsed, they had had correspondence from him. Personally, he had received a private letter from Mr. Holman, in which there was one very significant remark. He said: "I am only sorry now that I did not make a purchase of Mansu shares before I left for the coast." The directors had every reason to believe from other sources that Mr. Holman was exceedingly pleased with all he had seen of the properties up to the present time.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

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